

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday
 Bible Classes.....9 A.M.
 Worship 10:00 A.M.
 Worship/Bible Study..5 P.M.

Wednesday:
 Bible Study..... 7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 July 7, 2024

The Proud Pharisees

by Bryan Gibson

There were notable exceptions (e.g. Paul), but generally speaking the Pharisees were very proud people. The Pharisee Jesus depicted in this parable was all too typical: “God, I thank You that I am not like other men; extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector” (Luke 18:11). Speaking of the Pharisees, Jesus said, “They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi’” (Matthew 23:6-7). This kind of pride will inevitably lead to other problems, and this was certainly the case with the Pharisees. Let’s examine some of the fruits of their pride, with at least one main goal in mind: to make sure we’re not guilty of the same.



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They did good works, not to please the Lord, but to be seen of men (Matthew 23:5), the very thing Jesus warned against in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6:1-2, 5, 16). Desire for man's honor was exactly what kept many of the Pharisees from believing in Jesus (John 5:44). When you're proud, it's too easy to believe and do what's popular, instead of what's right.

This desire for man's praise led them to practice what we might call an "outward only righteousness" (Matthew 23:23-28; Luke 11:42). They were meticulous in doing the things that could be seen by others, but neglected such things as justice, mercy, faith, and even the love of God.

They failed to see themselves as God saw them—which is easy to do when full of yourself. They couldn't see they were "full of extortion and self-indulgence...hypocrisy and lawlessness" (Matthew 23:25, 28). They couldn't see their need for Jesus, because they couldn't see their sin (Luke 7:36-50).

They couldn't see their own sins, but they could sure see the sins of others. They were surprised Jesus would eat with such low-lifers as "tax collectors and sinners" (Mark 2:16); they even thanked God they were not like them (Luke 18:9-14). Honest self-examination would have made them much more humble in their approach to others (Galatians 6:1-5).

They closed their ears to the truth. When you're proud, it's easy to become entrenched in your own view, to reach the point that no amount of evidence can persuade you otherwise. That Jesus healed the blind man in John 9 was indisputable, but they did everything they could to dismiss the evidence

(John 9:13-34). When proven wrong on a point, they didn't admit it; they either got mad with the one who proved them wrong (Matthew 12:9-14), or resorted to ridiculous arguments (Matthew 12:22-26).

They loved money (Luke 16:13-15; 11:39), which is not surprising, when you remember they were all about status. When in love with the praise of men, it's easy for this to become one's focus.

Their traditions became more important to them than God's word (Mark 7:1-13). Again, we're not surprised, because these traditions were *theirs*. Breaking these traditions was an affront to *them*. It's a shame that they couldn't get as upset over violations of God's commandments (including their own).

Conclusion

It's no wonder Jesus sounded this warning in the Sermon on the Mount: "Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:20).

