

Empty Words and Empty Hearts

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Matthew 7:21-29.
- B. Paul was deeply concerned with warning people.
- C. We ought to warn people against theological deception, false doctrine and self-deception.
- D. Jesus asked for a righteousness that was beyond the righteousness of the Pharisees. You had to be as righteous as God.
- E. The only alternative are the righteousness of man or the righteousness of God.
- F. The Lord is calling for a narrow way.

II. A warning about false prophets' deception.

- A. A false doctrine of assurance.
 - 1. Bearing fruit is the only real assurance.
 - 2. Assurance is a blessing to the obedient.
- B. A failure of self-examination.
- C. A fixation of religious activity.

III. A warning about self-deception.

- A. Empty words.
- B. Empty hearts.
- C. Self deceived people can be spotted by those who are seeking the self indulgent byproducts of the faith more than God himself.
- D. Self deceived people are more committed to their group or class than God or the Bible.
- E. Self deceived people are content to stay in unbiblical organizations. .
- F. Self deceived people often treat the bible only as an academic concern.
- G. Self deceived people are those who over emphasize one doctrine.
- H. Self deceived people do not have grace.

IV. The characteristic of the true believer is that he is a doer and not a hearer only.

- A. Verbal profession is right but not by itself. (Romans 10)
- B. The mark of empty words is that there is nothing to verify it except a life of sin. Profession without possession is the ultimate profanity.
- C. There is folly in empty words.
 - 1. The man who gives words only looks a lot like the Christian.
 - 2. His foundation is only revealed at the storm, which is likely God's judgment.
 - 3. It is tough to build a good foundation, but we must work hard to do it in people. (Luke 6:46)

Application Questions:

1. What kind of deception do you see occurring the most in the church today?

2. How can we guard against a false perception of security?

3. What does the church need to do to build better foundations in the lives of its people? Explain.
