



A
Ministry
of:

**CORNERSTONE
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

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THE RIGHTEOUS WHO GO TO HELL - Vance Havner

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"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of Heaven." ~Matthew 5:20.

There were many commendable things about the Pharisees: They attended the house of God, Prayed, Tithed, Separated and sought to win others. There is a frightening danger that we are developing Pharisees instead of Christians. It is possible to get a lot of people busy doing a lot of things Christians ought to do, without their being Christians. Dr. Findley Edge said, "It is far easier to lead people to engage in action than it is to lead them to act from Christian motivation. This is why it is much easier to make Pharisees than it is to make Christians." He points out that in so doing, we lead people to believe they are something they are not...If a prophet stood in some sanctuaries and called our so-called worship what some of it really is, the congregation would feel insulted and the prophet might be escorted from the pulpit...

One would think Christians had never heard of the Scriptures: **"Be not conformed to this world"; "Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God"; "If any man love the world, the love of the father is not in him."** The gods of Rome, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life are still our gods, and we "fear the Lord and serve our own gods." Churches are filled with worldlings. They sit in the choir, teach a class and hold office...If their hypocrisy is pointed out, they adopt the hush-hush policy by misquoting the admonition, "Judge not that ye be not judged." When I see a bird that looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, paddles like a duck, and prefers the company of ducks, I conclude that it must be a duck.

What did our Lord mean when He said, **"Except your righteousness exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no wise enter into the Kingdom of God."**? How much better than a Pharisee can one be? Not much religiously. He did not mean we should add more activities. He meant another kind of righteousness: the imputed righteousness of Christ...We have more Pharisees than ever. I do not think that most of them suspect they are, and would be dumbfounded to find out. They may come to church, sing in the choir, teach Sunday School, support the Church, *but it is a performance, not an experience.* Jesus called the Pharisees hypocrites, which means "play-actors." They were pretending what was not real. They produce fruit and flowers that look real so as to deceive all but the most careful observers. In the parable of the tares, the devil did not burn up the wheat or plow up the ground, he planted an imitation.

People are more interested in being religious than they are in being righteous...They want to be happy, but they do not want to get right, be right, live right...We need to get back to producing Christians instead of Pharisees, born-again disciples as well as believers whose activities are motivated by the Holy Spirit. True Christian activity is but the outliving of the in-living Christ. Without Him we can do nothing.

YOUTH CORNER

THE EASY WAY WILL BE THE HARD WAY!

It would be good if you could learn while young that there are no short-cuts to spirituality. There may be short-cuts in other places, but not here! You just have to do it God's way - follow what He says in His Word - if you want to have His blessing and power; if you want to avoid a lot of trouble and heartache. Booker T. Washington told of an ambitious slave who asked his master to teach him how to play the guitar. The master had little faith in his ability and said, "Jake, I'll teach you the guitar but the first lesson will cost you \$3.00, the second \$2.00, the third \$1.00 and the last one will be free." Jake said, "I will accept the offer if you will give me the last lesson first." The master refused. So, God does not give the last lesson first! God never promised to make life easy for you.

DO YOU HAVE THE SENSE OF A DOG?

A man came upon a Negro turpentine worker, whose faithful dog had died a few moments earlier in a great forest fire. He died because he would not desert his master's dinner pail which he had been told to watch. With tears on his face, the old Negro said, "I always had to be careful what I told him to do, because I knew he would do it." How many profess to love the Lord Jesus Christ and yet He cannot trust them to do what He tells them to. If we love the Lord, it makes us obedient to Him. He said, "**If ye love me, keep my commandments.**"

IF BEER IS SUCH A WHOLESOME DRINK...

The many claims for beer, I think
Might need no explanation
If surgeons guzzled it just before
A major operation.

If beer's a drink for learned men,
Why doesn't some judge quench
His thirst by having mugs of beer
Convenient at his bench?

If beer is all it's claimed to be,
Why don't athletes of fame
All get together 'round the keg
Before a big league game?

If beer is such a "temperance drink,"
Which causes "needless fears"
Why is it railroads fail to hire
The beery engineers?

If beer produces steady men,
Why is it they affix
Such signs to Safety Bulletins
As - "Booze and Work Don't Mix?"

*Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging:
and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.*

Proverbs 20:1

THEY HAD TO TELL OTHERS

If there is one thing every "born again" child of God is commanded and expected to do, it is to take the Gospel to others. Jesus said, "**Go YE into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.**" Just before He went back to Heaven, He said to His followers: "**But YE shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and YE shall be witnesses unto me...**" In Jesus' and the apostles' day when people got saved it was just natural to want to go out and tell others. The woman in John 4 immediately went into the city to tell others she had found the Savior. The maniac of Gadara asked Jesus if he could go with Him and the disciples as they shared the "good news" of the forgiveness of sins. Jesus said, No, that is not what I want you to do. I want you "**...to go home to thy friends and tell them...**" It says, "**He departed and began to publish...how great things Jesus had done for him.**" In the book of Acts, we read that in spite of great persecution "**they went everywhere preaching the Word.**" This was not just the apostles - all of them that believed! But strange to say, today many, most, who claim to be saved never speak to anyone about the need of salvation through the blood of Christ. What must Jesus think of those who claim to be His children, but they are so indifferent or ashamed of Him that they fail to keep the most basic command He has given them? We should not have to be pled with, coaxed, exhorted to tell others of such a great Savior. It should just come naturally! "**Go YE...**"

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REMEMBERED...

The following was told by Dr. M.R. DeHaan: We were driving on Lake Michigan when my friend Clarence said, "What is this we are passing through?" I gave him what I thought was a satisfactory answer: "This is John Ball Park." But he wasn't satisfied and asked, "Why is it called John Ball Park?" I replied, "It is named in memory of John Ball." But he had another question, "Why in memory of John Ball? What did he do in order to be remembered?" I said, "This park is called John Ball Park because he gave the park to the city." This got us into a discussion on giving and receiving. It doesn't take a whole lot of investigation to realize that people are usually remembered much longer for what they gave than what they received. No doubt John Ball received many things in his lifetime, but he is not remembered for any of them. He is remembered for what he gave! This truth is rather obvious in almost all experiences of life. People are remembered for having given, for contributing. We celebrate the Lord's Supper because Jesus said, "**This do in remembrance of me.**" Why do we remember Him? Because He gave the greatest thing one could give, His blood, His life, in order to save us! "**For God so loved the world that HE GAVE His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**" ~*John 3:16*. Remember the widow who GAVE her two mites - all that she had? God remembered her in His word! After you are gone, for what will you be remembered?