

**Message# 277\_2-25-2024 - "Baptisma in the Name of..."**

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Good morning everyone. Thank you for tuning into the message this morning.

Let me remind you again about the Prayer Request page. I do not have any updates particularly from this week. I have not spoken with Doug, though I did get a text from him saying that his healing is going great. I hope to speak with him again soon. I do need you to keep Chrissy in your prayers. Her delivery of baby Josie was - well - I haven't gone into much detail and I won't because I really feel that is up to Jerry and Chrissy - but in a word - the labor and delivery was brutal. Chrissy went through an unimaginable experience - at least from our family's perspective - which has been 10 successful, mostly uneventful home births. Josie is six weeks old now. And Chrissy is still having a rough time. So, let me just leave it at that and ask you for continued prayers for Chrissy.

I had a brief conversation with Jeff this week - and even though it was brief - it was like most of my conversations with Jeff - very meaningful. We only talked about two things - but both of them were powerful. He asked me how soon I was to starting the Creation messages - and I told him I felt like it's closer. We got through Matthew 22 - need to get through 23 through 27 - so we could finally close that with Matthew 28:18-20. We've been showing that Jesus Christ' main purpose of existence - demonstrated by His Own words - His Own teachings - was all about the Authority of His Father, Himself and their Spirit. Look at the Gospels. You will see Authority everywhere you look.

He was born to a generation that had completely lost the fact that His Father - the Creator of the World and all that's in it and beyond - was the One to Whom every single man, woman boy and girl was to submit to. Before we really get going this morning, turn back to where we were last weekend, Matthew chapter 7. Look again beginning at verse 19. The teachings of Jesus Christ.

[19] Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

[20] Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

[21] Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the Will of My Father which is in Heaven.

I have pleaded with people for about 40 years now to consider “whose will are you living your life according to.” Are you living according to the will of men - or are you living according to the Will of God? Who guides your life? Whose “laws and statutes” do you live by? For most people - even people who claim to be “Christians” this answer is simple - because 99.9% of people in this world today - even those who claim to be “Christians” have determined that God's Laws and Statutes no longer exist - and if God's Laws and Statutes no longer exist - then - the only thing left is man's “laws and statutes.” And they live their life - from the birth certificate to the death certificate - and every single certificate in between - they live according to the will of - the “laws and statutes” of mere men.

I have tried for so many years to get people to understand this - and when I came across the New Haven Colony Covenant - my guess is about 20-25 years ago - seeing what this means in action - I thought so many more people who call themselves Christians would grasp this - it's explained so much better than I ever could - even though it is so ridiculously simple - they said - agreed to by raising of the hands - public vote for everyone to see - “The Scriptures are the only thing necessary to Govern us in our lives towards God and in our lives toward each other” - and they called the each other - “their commonwealth.”

The Bible is the Law Book. It's the only Law Book necessary for men to Govern themselves in their relationship to God and in their relationship to each other.

When I was going through my trials - I put it in writing for these people who were persecuting me. All I'm trying to do is live my life the same way my forefathers did when they came to this land - the very same soil - that we live on today. The New Haven Colony Covenant - for those people - was “the law of the land.” That's what they agreed to. That's what they gave their consent to. And I agree with *that* one. That's the one I give my consent to. And I have every bit as much “right” in fact - I believe I have more right” to claim the Scriptures as my sole Law Book because I claim forefathers on this land to be long antecedent to the ones who came to prominence in the late 1700s.

Friends, the New Haven Colony Covenant is one of the reasons why their 1700s CONstitution has what has been called “the supremacy clause.” The New Haven Colony Covenant established the Bible as their Law Book. The U.S. CONstitution of 1789 took that away. When an argument went to their “supreme court” in 1803, they said:

*It is also not entirely unworthy of observation that in declaring what shall be the*

*supreme law of the land, the constitution itself is first mentioned; and not the laws of the United States generally, but those only which shall be made in pursuance of the constitution, have that rank.*

In other words, all “laws” prior to 1789 were null and void - unless - they could be determined to be in agreement with the CON. This was one of the great dangers that Patrick Henry warned about. They went on and said:

*Thus, the particular phraseology of the constitution of the United States confirms and strengthens the principle, supposed to be essential to all written constitutions, that a law repugnant to the constitution is void; and that courts, as well as other departments, are bound by that instrument.*

So, in the U.S., in 1789, the last remnants of anything that remained from the New Haven Colony Covenant was buried. The CONstitution, and only those “laws” made in pursuance of that CONstitution, have that rank.

That's the decision of those on the other side of the river - as Joshua said it. That's a decision that every single adult should get to make. If you agree to and bind yourself to the U.S. CONstitution - then you've made your choice. You will live by the will of the CONstitution - the “laws made in pursuance thereof.”

This includes all their millions and millions of “statutes.” Countless numbers of which are completely opposed to the teachings of Jesus Christ. They have even included - as part of their “laws of the land statute” - things that become what they call “public policy.” So countless numbers of their “laws and statutes” oppose the Word of God - and almost the entirety of their “public policy” is in opposition to the Word of God.

I realize that understanding the Words of Jesus Christ - as they are so clearly spoken - is not easy. It is not particularly easy - well - let me stop right there for a minute - those Words are easy. Those Words clearly bring about an unbelievably better way of life - I'm talking about the Words of Christ - a better way of living - no question about it - not even a comparison at all - the true Christian way of living is more prosperous, more free, more peaceful - that is - until those that hate Jesus Christ and hate His Father and hate His Word - decide to declare war on the peaceful follower of Christ. When they decide to declare war and use their seemingly unending resources against the peaceful follower of Jesus Christ - they can take that simple, peaceful way of living - and turn it into some pretty treacherous times for the follower of Jesus Christ.

They can make life difficult - but they can't destroy the inward part of that Christian. When you know that you are being persecuted for standing for the Will of God - for

remaining true to the Words of Jesus Christ in Matthew 7:21 - you will find the strength to make it through whatever the enemies of Christ come against you with. Continue with verse 22:

[22] Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works?

Once again, friends, saying the sound J-E-S-U-S, or singing songs with the word J-E-S-U-S in it, does not make someone a follower of Christ. Many people say that sound. Many people sing that sound. There is no power in the sound of a word. Name - in just about every single Bible verse there is - means Authority. We do what we do by the Authority of Jesus Christ. We do what we do by the Authority of the Creator of the World. Prophesying in that Name, casting out the enemies of God in that Name, doing many wonderful works in that Name - means by the Authority of God.

Is taking care of your family a wonderful work? Is working to put food on the table a wonderful work? Is building a house for your wife and children a wonderful work? Of course. All of that is considered by the Bible - to be wonderful works. And by Whose Authority do we do those things? By the Authority - by the Name of God - or by the power - or the name of the state? Of mere men?

Jesus did not spend His time in ministry teaching people how to sing "Jesus Loves Me" in their "church" buildings. Jesus did not spend His time in ministry making sure everyone knew the song "Jesus Loves the Little Children." He was talking about the way people should live their lives. He was talking about living and moving and having their being in Christ - in His Kingship - in His Father's Will.

Friends, verse 23 are the Words of Jesus to a misguided people who thought they were right with God. They thought they would enter into His Kingdom. But they were wrong.

[23] And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.

Why does it have to be this way, Jesus? The "churches" are filled with some really nice people who say the sound of your name every week, and they sing the sound of your name all through the week. Can't it just be enough that we say the sound of your name

in our buildings each week? Can't we say we are doing your Father's Will in our buildings every sunday? Why can't we have it both ways? We'll claim to do your Father's Will on sunday inside our church buildings, then, we'll leave the buildings and obey the state's will the rest of the time. We can have the best of both worlds. What could be wrong with that?

[24] Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

[25] And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

[26] And every one that heareth these sayings of Mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

[27] And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Friends, the world has been deceived. The world has been duped. As far as God is concerned, as far as the Kingdom of God is concerned, as far as salvation is concerned, what's important is understanding the Will of God - that's called faith - believing the Will of God - that's called trust - but the reality is - the Will of God has been hidden from a naive world by religious "churchmen" who have convinced people - who would much rather be safe and rich - that doing the Will of the Father - means submitting to the will of mere men. Obeying the definitions of right and wrong, good and evil - as defined by mere men - as opposed to the understanding and obeying the definitions of good and evil as defined by God.

All the things that you are doing in your life today? All that you believe is right and wrong, good and evil. Are those things found in the Word of God? Or do they come from the "laws, statutes, treaties, etc., of a CON?" I believe it really is that simple.

"Oh, Charlie, that's ridiculous. Jesus was only speaking to people in the spiritual world. He wasn't talking about things the way you say. Jesus was not talking about men's "laws, statutes, treaties, etc., and CONstitutions."

Keep your finger here and turn back to Matthew 22, and look at verse 35.

[35] Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked Him a question, tempting Him, and saying,

Remember now, this is the same chapter where the issue of paying taxes to Caesar is. But you know, Jesus wasn't talking about men's "laws, etc.," that's just ridiculous to say things like that. Well, except when you talk to most people about taxes, then they can't wait to make their claim that Jesus demanded people obliterate the commandment of God concerning graven images - among others - the first one, for instance - and "pay taxes." So here in this same chapter - now we find a lawyer asking Him a question, and in a deceptive manner - staying true to the character of most lawyers -

[36] Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

[37] Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

[38] This is the first and great commandment.

[39] And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

[40] On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

There are some who will again turn this into a discussion of the ceremonial Law that God gave Moses. That's not at all what is being discussed here. And once again, Jesus brings it all back to such a place of simplicity - it's so amazing that so few people today get it. You've heard me say a thousand times that the Law Book of God is contained in a Book that's barely two inches thick. Jesus sums it up in two sentences. Yet, today, still, most people who claim to be Christians, demand that Jesus commands people to submit to millions and millions of "laws, statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations, treaties, public policies, etc., etc." Friends, if we aren't clear on the issue - then isn't the safest thing to do is just take the Bible?

Let me just get all of man's millions and millions of pages of rules out of my mind and out of my life - and let me focus on the Words of Jesus Christ to guide my life. I can focus a whole lot better on two things, than I can on millions of things. The absolute brilliance of the Words of Jesus Christ is staggering. They offer the greatest amount of freedom, the greatest amount of prosperity, and, the greatest amount of safety when men interact with each other. Love your neighbor - your fellowman - as yourself. Wow. Isn't that easy? Wouldn't that cure all the problems that face our world? But I guess that's just too simplistic, isn't it?

Jesus told the lawyers how the law should be. Jesus, indeed, spent His ministry telling people how they were supposed to live. His ministry wasn't spent in a "church building" once or twice a week. His ministry was about claiming Authority over every aspect of the way men live their lives - and teaching people that if they don't live that way - they

would not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Back to Matthew 7:

[26] And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

[27] And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

But today, we live in a world that not only refuses the sayings of Christ, but most don't even know what they are. The end of Matthew 7,

[28] And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at His doctrine:

[29] For He taught them as One having authority, and not as the scribes.

The life and ministry of Jesus Christ was one of teaching men and women, boys and girls to submit to the Authority of God. It was one of calling them out of the power of mere men - and into the Authority of God - where we are supposed to live, and move and have our being.

The other thing Jeff asked me was about the Creation series. I told him I did want to go back and say something about something I said last week. I referred you to, and provided the link to the NASA website where they told people how the world began.

Teresa and I were talking about it this week, and I just had to bring it up again. I just cannot believe that people actually believe this stuff. NASA claims it all started 13.8 billion years ago. Not 13.7, not 15.2, or 11.9 - but 13.8 billion years ago. They say this unapologetically - it's the truth. That's when the "big bang" occurred. Then, as they were saying that, they said, quote:

*When cosmic inflation stopped,*

I hope you got the same chuckle out of that, that I did. Their inflation has never stopped. Not for a second. Not this inflation - or the one they have today.

*the energy driving it transferred to matter and light – the big bang.*

Now listen. This all happened 13.8 billion years ago - then -

*One second after the big bang, the universe consisted of an extremely hot (18 billion degrees Fahrenheit or 10 billion degrees Celsius) primordial soup of light and particles.*

These guys are incredible. They have determined the “big bang” to be 13.8 billion years ago - then - they can even tell you what happened down to the second. That is amazing.

*In the following minutes,*

Seconds, minutes after they've calculated 13.8 billion years....then they can tell you what happened in a second, then the minutes...

*an era called nucleosynthesis, protons and neutrons collided and produced the earliest elements – hydrogen, helium, and traces of lithium and beryllium. After five minutes,*

That is just incredible. These guys know what happened down to the second. Down to the minute. Within five minutes

*most of today's helium had formed, and the universe had expanded and cooled enough that further element formation stopped. At this point, though, the universe was still too hot for the atomic nuclei of these elements to catch electrons and form complete atoms. The cosmos was opaque because a vast number of electrons created a sort of fog that scattered light.*

Friends, people who have the audacity and the arrogance to try to convince other people that things like this are true - I mean - they don't even say - “We think this is how the world came about” - they say this is the way cosmologists' current theories are. These people have put themselves out as - in my opinion - as gods. So smart. So intelligent, higher beings of intellect.

We, as followers of Jesus Christ, should hold to the Scriptures that our God is in the Heavens laughing at them in derision. How dare you try to teach people about the origins of the world - and make no mention to the God of the Bible and the Genesis account of Creation from Genesis chapter 1? That is not acceptable.

For those of you that have already looked at the Biblical account of Creation with renewed eyes - you probably already know about this. But for those just now looking, research Orlando Ferguson's Map of the Square and Stationary Earth. A link is in the



notes.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/2011594831/>

Apparently, there is a book that he wrote that accompanies the map that he drew back in the 1800s. There is supposed to be a book that he wrote about 400 Bible passages that refute the globe. I've searched and searched the internet and can't find the book. If there's anyone out there that has found it, if you could send me a link, I'd really appreciate it.

I'm not telling you that I agree with Orlando Ferguson's map or his book. I'm just telling you that he - and others as well - in the 1800s - were preaching against the rotating, spinning globe world - and they were using the Bible to make their stand. The map is pretty cool. I like it. I have no idea whether or not it's accurate. None of us do and I don't believe there is a person living today that could verify or discredit the map.

At the bottom of his map, he has some Bible verses under the heading, SCRIPTURE THAT CONDEMNS THE GLOBE THEORY.

*And his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And the sun still still, and the moon stayed. The world also shall be stable that it be not moved.*

I particularly love that last quote from I Chronicles 16. In my opinion it is not accurate to call the world - and I mean when people call their globe - the earth. That is not accurate. It may have been at the instant of Creation. But when it was formed, the land and the seas, the land was called Earth. All of it together is eventually called, the world. Just like it says in I Chronicles 16:30. Ferguson continues:

*To him that stretched out the earth (that's the land), and made great lights*

and in parentheses, he says (not worlds.) Again, personally, I think that is awesome. I intend to go into more detail on the sun and the moon as being lights. That's what the Bible says. They are lights. One rules the day, one rules the night. A reflector is not a light. The moon is not a reflector, it is a light. Anyone who knows even the most basic elements of photography - understands the difference between a light and a reflector. A reflector is not a light. There is a difference.

*The sun shall be darkened in his going forth. The four corners of the earth. The whole*

*earth is at rest. The prophecy concerning the globe theory*

I have not read his book, but I have a feeling he might be referring to Isaiah chapter 29 about people who claim to be so smart and they turn things upside down. Teresa and I often joke about people in Australia who are walking upside down on their ball earth. If you fly from America to Australia - toward the bottom of the ball - at what point do you realize that you are upside down? Oh yeah. I keep forgetting about that imaginary thing called gravity. And how that magically - combined with some other theory that escapes me right now - but it magically tricks you into not really thinking you are upside down. Ok.

Ferguson's map continues:

*Woe to the rebellious children, sayeth the Lord, that take counsel, but not of me.*

Sure, I get that. Talk about Creation - and make no mention of Genesis 1? Or even worse, discredit Genesis chapter 1? Don't say, "Well, maybe people don't really understand Genesis chapter 1." No, don't say something like that. Just flat out say, Genesis chapter 1 is a nothing but a fairytale.

*So the sun returned ten degrees. It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth. He that spread forth the earth. That spreadeth abroad the earth by myself. My hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth. Thus sayeth the Lord, which giveth the sun for light by day, and the moon and stars for a light by night. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood.*

Now, again, I'm not saying that's the way it is. I'm not saying Ferguson is right or wrong. But when someone says, "this is what the Bible says". Then I'm going to look at it. I'm going to take that a whole lot more seriously than someone coming to me saying "this is what "the world's cosmologists current theories" are.

Now, let's get to today's message. Turn to Matthew chapter 23.

We were at Matthew chapter 20 - where we find Jesus Himself describing baptisma. His baptisma. His distinctly different baptisma than the baptisma of physical water that was introduced in the Law God gave Moses hundreds of years prior.

Jesus was explaining in Matthew chapter 20 - the baptisma that John clearly said - was

a coming baptisma that was not like the baptisma that John was performing.

“All I'm doing is washing you in physical water. All I'm doing is leading you into repentance according to the Law God gave Moses. But there is One coming after me, Whose shoe latches I am unworthy to loosen - He is going to baptidzo you - He is going to wash you - He is going to overwhelm you - with something totally different.” For the life of me, I don't understand how the words of John are not so simple, so easy to understand. John said, “Jesus is going to wash you with something totally different than what I am washing you with.”

So, again, and again, and again, do you want the baptisma of John the Washer? Or do you want the baptisma of Jesus Christ? John's clear description of the baptisma that Jesus Christ was going to bring - friends - it's as clear as can be that the baptisma that Jesus Christ was going to bring - was in their future. It was not in the time of John the Washer. Jesus was going to bring another baptisma.

John the Washer's physical H2O baptisma was a required element of the Law God gave Moses. Everyone during that time knew it. They all understood it. That's why there's no explanation. That's why there's nothing recorded that John is telling people - “I'm doing something new for you. I am leading you into some new method of repentance.” What John was doing was not new. Physical water washing is found all over the Law God gave Moses and that's what John was leading the people into in that day. Physical washing for the remission of sins is all over the Law God gave Moses.

So, John clearly said, “Jesus is going to lead you into a completely different baptisma.”

I have been criticized. I have been called a heretic. Our ministry has been railed on repeatedly - because I have pleaded with people to include the baptisma that Jesus Christ Himself defined - it's the only time Jesus defined baptisma - I've pleaded with people to include the baptisma of Jesus Christ as defined by Himself in Matthew 20, Mark 10, Luke 12 - in a discussion of the one baptisma of Ephesians chapter 4. But because Jesus' baptisma found in those chapters is not a physical H2O “church water ritual” - then there's simply no way that it can be included in the discussion.

And, I'm saying, that the One Baptisma of Ephesians chapter 4 is the one that Jesus defines in Matthew 20, Mark 10, Luke 12, Mark 16, Matthew 28, Romans 6, Galatians 3, Colossians 2, I Peter 3 and if someone has placed their trust in any other baptisma - all they have done is reverted back to the Old Covenant Law God gave Moses for the

remission of sins - and their physical water baptisma is no more effective than if they have gone out and sacrificed a lamb. In fact, a physical water baptisma - on this side of the destruction of the temple - is exactly the same thing as sacrificing an animal and if you have placed your trust in that act - or in that belief - whatever semantics you want to do with that happening - then you are lost. You need to repent and understand and place your trust in the true baptisma that Jesus Christ Himself defined.

And I'm talking about being immersed into the belief that God the Father, His Only Begotten Son, Jesus the Christ, and their Holy Spirit have All Power, All Authority, in Heaven and on earth - and be willing to lose your life - be willing to take up a cross - the symbol of the death penalty of men's little g "governments" and follow Jesus Christ as He leads people to obey the exclusive Will of His Father.

The baptisma of Jesus Christ has nothing whatsoever to do with physical H2O water. It's about drinking from the Living Water which is Jesus Christ, it's about the river of life flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb of God.

In Matthew chapter 23, we once again find Jesus Christ teaching His absolute, exclusive Authority over the lives of the people. Read with me please, beginning in verse 1. Reading the chapter so we can continue on until we finish with chapter 28. Not today. But soon.

- [1] Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to His disciples,
- [2] Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

Again, the scribes and the Pharisees. The lawyers, the "ruling class" during that day. Just exactly as we find ourselves today. There are lawyers - and there is a "ruling class" that the people put up with - for reasons only God knows. Jesus delivered us from all of this garbage, yet most people are too gutless or fearful to stand against and preach the pure Gospel of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

To the people:

- [3] All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

He just told the people - in referencing the lawyers and the "ruling class, elite"...

[3] All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

He is telling the people that the lawyers and the “rulers” claim to get their “authority” in the name of Moses. They do that - just like they do today - to trick people into thinking that their power, or authority comes from God. So, when they do that - then by all means - live according to the Authority of God - but their works demonstrate something totally different than what they say. Friends, they do the exact same thing today.

Teresa showed me an absolutely hilarious video of Donald Trump this week. There were a couple of slick haired, fancy dressed “preachers” who asked Trump what his favorite book is. And Trump answered, “The Bible.” So the “preachers” asked Trump to tell them his favorite verse. “Just one”, they asked. Sincere as can be, just “tell us one”. To which Trump continuously rebuffed them. “That's personal. There's so many.” “But all we're asking for is one.” “No, that's too personal for me to tell you one.” Hilarious. It's because he doesn't know even one - from his favorite book. That's not a condemnation of Trump, it's a condemnation of all of them. None of them know the Book. At least not in Spirit and in truth. Some of them know some “church” stuff - but that's not the truth.

[4] For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

I went through that too fast. All these politicians love to tell people about God putting them in their place. And that's where they get their “authority” - but none of them know the Book. If they did - they wouldn't be doing what they do.

[5] But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

[6] And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,

[7] And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi.

[8] But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

[9] And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

You might think this is the silliest thing ever. I have always called my Dad - my Dad. I've

never called my earthly Dad “father” - at least I can't recall. Just because I don't think I fully understand what this verse means. So, since I don't understand it fully, I've just erred on the side of scrupolosity. He's my Dad. And she's my Mom. I'm by no means calling that doctrine, I'm just telling you a little something extra about me. I don't believe in calling men, Father. That, of course, completely eliminates Catholicism - but that doesn't matter - that's just what Jesus says.

**[10]** Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

Some of you know that I have some experience in building websites. It makes me cringe to be called a “webmaster.”

**[11]** But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

Now look at that again. Politicians actually love that phrase “public servant.” But is that typically how they act? Of course not. Goes to the same principle that started the chapter. Embrace the words “public servants” - good term - Bible term - but as far as what they do? No. For they say and do not. Same today as it was back then.

**[12]** And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

**[13]** But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Friends, He's railing on the lawyers and those that desire to be of the “ruling class.” These aren't people who are administering the Laws of God - as in Love God and Love your neighbor. These are the people who make millions and millions of “laws, statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations, who exercise dominion over other people with their definitions of right and wrong, good and bad. These are not people who are trying to advance the Kingdom of God, these are people who are doing all they can to prevent people from finding and entering the Kingdom of God - which - according to the Words of Jesus just a few days ago - said it was really really simple - two Laws - Love God - Love Neighbor. Two Laws upon which every thing else hangs.

**[14]** Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

[15] Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Jesus is taking Authority over life. He's taking Authority over their laws. He's taking Authority over their "legal system." He's railing on the lawyers and on those who desire to rule over other people. Listen, men can rule over other men under one circumstance - when men violate the very few Laws of God - men can hold each other accountable. No murder. No stealing, no perjury and a few other things. But men are not allowed to just sit around and make up their own "laws." Men are not allowed to be lawmakers. God did not give man the authority to make up their own definitions of good and evil.

They love - absolutely love to tell people that God ordained them. God ordained men to hold others accountable to His Laws - not theirs. Do not do as they do. That's what Jesus said.

[16] Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!

[17] Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?

[18] And, Whosoever shall swear by the altar, it is nothing; but whosoever sweareth by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty.

Once again. Jesus Christ was claiming Authority over the temple. The temple was the seat of the Israelite world and Jesus was claiming Authority over it.

[19] Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?

[20] Whoso therefore shall swear by the altar, sweareth by it, and by all things thereon.

[21] And whoso shall swear by the temple, sweareth by it, and by Him that dwelleth therein.

[22] And he that shall swear by Heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by Him that sitteth thereon.

[23] Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other

undone.

The lawyers, the “ruling class” it's all backwards. The same today. They've got it all backwards. They have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith.

They spend time looking for people who do not carry a piece of plastic in their pocket. They look for people who don't have an approved piece of metal on their car or truck. Hang an air freshener from your rear view mirror - that might get you killed. Feed a stray cat - that might get you beat up - even if you are an 81 year old woman. It's backwards. Men are not allowed to force other people to obey their definitions of good and evil - if those definitions are not clearly defined in the Word of God.

“The statutes of the heathen.” We've talked about that before. The “statutes of the heathen” does not mean “statutes” made by the naked bushmen of the darkest parts of Africa who think that tiki idols made from elephant tusks are their gods. Heathen refers to those who do not believe in the God of the Bible. If you are making “laws” that add to the Word of God - that is heathen. You can be the slickest dressed, the most manicured hair and nails in society - never say a cuss word - never say an unkind word - but if you add to the Laws of God contained in the Word of God - you are a heathen.

“But our Laws are based on the Word of God.” If they were, then you would never say “Our laws.” God said we are not to add to His Laws. We do not need more laws. We do not need “laws based on God's Word.” His Word is enough. What is needed, are Godly, righteous judges, who understand the Law of God contained in His Word - and then those Laws can be applied to every single action that men are capable of. There is nothing new under the sun. There is no sin - that the Bible has not already addressed. There is nothing that men can do today - that is not already addressed when people understand the Mind and Will of God.

**[24]** Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

I see that just the same today. You have a taillight out. You drive 47 in a 45. Oh my goodness. Fines, jails.

**[25]** Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.



**[26]** Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Jesus is not preaching inside the walls of some “church” building. He's preaching to the whole world and telling the whole world the way things are supposed to be. He's not just speaking to the wind. And these are the very Words that we are to live by today. What we are reading here in Matthew 23 is what He was talking about in Matthew 7. Do what He says. If you do what He says, you are building your house upon the rock. If you don't do what He says - you are foolish and your house is going to be destroyed.

**[27]** Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

**[28]** Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Chasing your own “laws.” Living by your own definitions of right and wrong, good and evil.

**[29]** Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

Nearly this whole chapter is about Jesus Christ railing on the legal system of His day. And it's no different today as it was back then. This is not religious rhetoric. This is telling people how they are supposed to live. We aren't supposed to be like the “legalers.” We aren't supposed to be like those who make their own definitions of right and wrong and force others to obey.

**[30]** And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

“Well, we wouldn't have killed Jesus back then?” Oh, yes you would have. Just like you are persecuting His saints today. Just like you are persecuting people who are trying to live, “No King but Jesus.” There's the evidence right there. Jesus said, “In the world you will have persecution. They hated Me, they will hate you also.” When you have allowed Jesus to baptidzo you in His baptisma - you will suffer persecution.

**[31]** Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them

which killed the prophets.

[32] Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

[33] Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

[34] Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

[35] That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

[36] Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

[37] O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

[38] Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

[39] For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Jesus Christ just took Authority over an entire group of people. He just them that their house, their family, their nation, had been left unto them desolate. And who was the majority of that chapter directed to? The scribes and the Pharisees. The legal system of that day. The legal system of that day - and the legal system of today - not operating the way Jesus said they were supposed to operate. The legal systems in the world today are the epitome of exercising dominion over each other. Dominating. Ruining lives. It is not supposed to be so. We are supposed to have a world where two main Laws Govern.

Love God. Love your neighbor. Instead, we have a world where the rich ruleth over the poor. Jesus said, "Among you it shall not be so."

Are we immersed into the Authority of Jesus Christ? Do we believe that Jesus has All Power, All Authority in Heaven and in earth? Do we believe that One has already come in the name of - in the Authority of the Lord?

This is serious business. Living by the Authority of Jesus Christ in a world that hates His Authority. This is what it means to take up a cross and follow Jesus Christ. Would you dare speak to a cop or a judge or a politician the way Jesus did here in Matthew 23?

I believe the biggest reason why the world is in the shape it is in today, is because men

have refused to understand the ministry of Jesus Christ. They do not understand the Authority of Jesus. They do not understand that Jesus was calling people out of living the way the scribes and the Pharisees lived and to come out from that world and into following Jesus Christ - into His Kingdom. Into the Will and Way of life His Father commands.