

Painted Holiness

by Thomas Brooks

A sermon warning against the dangers of hypocrisy and the consequences of pretending to be holy without true godliness.

Scripture: Proverbs 28:13, Isaiah 29:13, Matthew 7:21-23, Matthew 23:14, Luke 12:2, Romans 2:21-24, Galatians 6:7, 2 Timothy 3:5, James 1:22, 1 John 1:6

Topics: "Hypocrisy", "True Holiness"

Description

Thomas Brooks warns against the dangers of hypocrisy in the pursuit of holiness, using the Scribes and Pharisees as prime examples of those who outwardly appear righteous but are inwardly corrupt. He emphasizes that pretended holiness leads to greater damnation, as those who profess godliness without true piety are ultimately the most miserable. Brooks illustrates that artificial sanctity is a severe iniquity, and he urges listeners not to deceive themselves with a false sense of righteousness. He concludes with a stark reminder that Christ will eventually reveal the true nature of those who wear masks of holiness, leading to eternal shame.

Transcript

"Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers; therefore you shall receive the greater damnation." Matthew 23:14

Who had a greater name for holiness, and who made a greater show of holiness, and who did more despise and insult other men for the lack of holiness--than the Scribes and Pharisees? And who so miserable now--as they?

Pretended holiness will double-damn souls at last!

None have so large a portion in hell as hypocrites have.

No man at last will be found so miserable, as he who has the name of a saint upon him--but not the divine nature in him; who has a profession of holiness upon him--but no principles of holiness in him; who has a form of godliness --but not the power; who can cry up godliness--but in practice denies it; who is a professor outwardly--but an atheist, a pagan, a devil inwardly.

Artificial sanctity is double iniquity. He who professes piety without being pious, and godliness without being godly; he who makes counterfeit holiness a cloak to impiety, and a midwife to iniquity; he who is . . .

a Jacob without--and an Esau within,

a David without--and a Saul within,

a John without--and a Judas within,

a saint without--and a Satan within,

an angel without--and a devil within,

is ripened for the worst of torments!

Sirs, do not deceive your own souls!

A painted sword shall as soon defend a man, and

a painted mint shall as soon enrich a man, and

a painted fire shall as soon warm a man, and

a painted friend shall as soon counsel a man, and

a painted horse shall as soon carry a man, and

a painted feast shall as soon nourish a man, and

a painted house shall as soon shelter a man--as

a painted holiness shall save a man! He who

now thinks to put off God with a painted holiness,

shall not fare so well at last--as to be put off with
a painted happiness. The lowest, the hottest, and
the darkest habitation in hell will be his portion,
whose religion lies all in shows and shadows.
Well, spiritual counterfeits, remember this--it will
not be long before Christ will unmask you; before
He will uncloak you; before He will disrobe you;
before He will take off your masks, your cloaks,
and turn your rotten insides outward--to your
eternal shame and reproach before all the world!

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/thomas-brooks/painted-holiness/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net