

David Platt

THE DANGER OF DAMNATION IN SINCERE RELIGION Matthew 23

A Serious Caution...

- It is possible for you and me to genuinely believe that we are doing God's work, obeying God's Word, and accomplishing God's will, yet to be deceived and to experience eternal damnation.
 - May God expose our blind spots, uncover our hearts, and save us from ourselves...

Key Questions...

- Do we practice what we preach?
- Are we content with the approval of God or do we desire the applause of men?
- Do we assert our superiority over others (and in the process usurp Christ's superiority over all)?
- Do we humbly serve others or are we hypocritically centered on ourselves?
- Are we hindering people's salvation...
 - Either through deceiving potential disciples of Jesus?
 - Or through creating virtual disciples of ourselves?
- Are we more concerned with biblical minutia than we are with practical ministry?
 - Do we justify sin according to our traditions or do we flee sin according to God's truth?
 - Do we pride ourselves on following convenient laws or do we spend ourselves expressing costly love?
- Are we focused on outward cleanliness instead of inward holiness?
 - Purity always begins in the heart.
 - Religion is a subtly dangerous cover-up for spiritual deadness.

The Final Charge...

- They had murdered God's messengers.
- They would murder Christian missionaries.
- They were about to murder the promised Messiah.

The Frightening Conclusion...

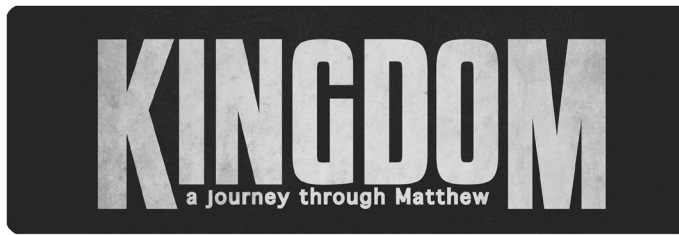
- We are them.

The Inevitable Certainty...

- The condemnation of sinners is imminent.
- The salvation of sinners is possible.
- The exaltation of Jesus is guaranteed.

So How Shall We Respond?

- Among our elders...
 - Let us lead with integrity from God's Word as the only source of authority for what we believe and how we behave.
 - Let us lead by submission to God's Son as our Chief Shepherd and the Coming King.
- In our lives...
 - Let us humbly hide under the shelter of Christ's mercy.
 - Let us wisely walk in surrender to Christ's authority.
 - Understanding his Word rightly.
 - Desiring his worship wholeheartedly.
 - Let us passionately proclaim the supremacy of Christ's glory.



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 - Understanding his Word _____.
 - Desiring his worship _____.
 - Let us passionately _____ the supremacy of Christ's glory.