

FALSE SECURITY

ROMANS 2:17-29

Text:

Introduction:

The apostle now shows what sins these were guilty, notwithstanding their profession and vain pretensions.

Spiritual pride is the most dangerous of all kinds of pride.

Many then and many today despise their more ignorant neighbors' who rest in a dead form of godliness; yet they themselves trust in a form of knowledge, equally void of life and power.

There are many who are like those referred to in Acts 26:

Acts 26:27-29

²⁷ King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. ²⁸ Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. ²⁹ And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

They are almost but not altogether.

Note:

Matthew 7:22-23

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

2 Corinthians 13:5

⁵ Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

Hebrews 4:1-2

¹ Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. ² For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*.

Sadly many then as well as today have pillars of false security, or have been misled in this matter of salvation.

What I say this evening isn't said to cause you to question or doubt your salvation, but I do believe that we should make certain that we are saved.

Notice:

1. THERE'S THE FALSE PILLAR OF RACE (17A)

Romans 2:17

¹⁷ Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,

A. Many then thought because they were a Jew, and had the law of God and the promise of God, that would ignore their wickedness, and lewdness.

They thought because they were of Abraham's seed that all was well.

John 8:33

³³ They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

Note you may be born in a bread box but that still doesn't make you a biscuit.

You may walk into a garage, but that doesn't make you a car.

You may be an American, but that doesn't make you a Christian.

You may attend church every week, but just as walking into a garage doesn't make you a car, walking into or attending church doesn't make you a Christian.

I'm concerned today at what I see going on, in Baptist churches.

Now let me say it's wonderful when a person trust the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, but what concerns me is that with all those that many say they have saved and baptized, I see very little change in their lives.

I heard just today a preacher refer to a church that said that they baptized several thousand people last year and there were only 200 that attended the church on a regular basis.

There's more to it that signing a card, or repeating a prayer.

Someone has said "There is no conversion without conviction."

We are so proud today. We think for the most part we're invincible.

I heard the president say today that with the influx of money into the economy that we have made this country depression proof.

I'm afraid that we are going to have to hit bottom and face depression and or disaster before we as a nation will once again realize our dependence on the Lord.

2. THERE'S THE FALSE PILLAR OF RELIGION (17 B -24)

Romans 2:17-24

¹⁷ Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, ¹⁸ And knowest *his* will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law; ¹⁹ And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, ²⁰ An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law. ²¹ Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? ²² Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? ²³ Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? ²⁴ For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.

- A. The Pharisee knew the Bible
- B. Paul knew the law
- C. The demons knew Jesus
- D. Judas followed Jesus

Matthew 7:22

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?

Notice these were very religious people referred to.

There had preached, done amazing deeds, performed many wonderful works.

Yet the Lord will say to them:

Matthew 7:23

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

3. THERE'S THE FALSE PILLAR OF RULE OR ROUTINE (25-29)

Romans 2:25-29

²⁵ For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. ²⁶ Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? ²⁷ And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law? ²⁸ For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: ²⁹ But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.

Circumcision was to the Old Testament what Baptism is to the New Testament.

- A. Salvation is not outward but inward (vs. 28)
- B. Salvation is relationship not a ritual (vs. 29)

C. Salvation is acceptance by God and not men (vs. 29)

In other words a church may accept you into its membership and fellowship, but that in and of itself doesn't make you a Christian.

Remember: Doing doesn't replace Being.

Matthew 23:13-33

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. 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. 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. 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 tithes 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. ²⁴ Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel. 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. 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. ²⁹ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, 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. 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?