

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 2:17-29.**
- B. This morning I want to speak about one of the dirtiest words in the English language.
- C. It doesn't matter what you believe or know, no one likes this type of person.
- D. What I speak of is hypocrisy (a hypocrite).

I. WHAT THE WORD HYPOCRITE MEANS.

- A. The word literally means "a stage actor" or "pretender," therefore, the verb form would mean "play acting."
- B. In this sense the words and actions of an individual is not a true indication of belief, knowledge, or desire.
- C. Jesus has his definition of hypocrisy (which matches the above) and it can be paraphrased, "the heart and the lips aren't together (Mt. 15:7-9).
- D. Jesus called the Pharisees hypocrites many times. We don't like to be considered a "Pharisee" because we are then thought of as a hypocrite.
- E. Jesus even went so far as to say that hypocrisy is the leaven of the Pharisees. It was hypocrisy that was the driving, spreading force of their sinful lifestyle.

II. HOW HYPOCRACY HAS BEEN USED.

- A. The Pharisees and their disciples used hypocrisy in trying to trap Jesus. They did not want their question answered, they wanted Jesus to contradict the Law (Mt. 22:15-22).
- B. A synagogue official tried to accuse Jesus of hypocrisy when Christ healed a woman on the Sabbath. Jesus refuted his claim by showing the official's hypocrisy of Sabbath day works (Lk. 13:10-17).
- C. Hypocrisy has caused some to fall away from the truth and be lost. A liar is a hypocrite and a hypocrite is a liar--a distortion of known truth (1Tim. 4:1,2).

III. HOW HYPOCRISY CAN HURT US TODAY.

- A. Jesus mentions three areas in Matthew, chapter 6 where hypocrisy can hurt us:
 - 1. In our alms giving (Mt. 6:2-4).
Is our reward from men or God? Do we tend to "blow your own horn?"
 - 2. In our prayers (Mt. 6:5-15).
Is our reward from men or God?
 - 3. In our fasting (Mt. 6:16-18).
Is our reward from men or God? Is fasting as important as giving and praying? When you give, when you pray, and when you fast!
- B. Jesus also said we can be guilty of hypocrisy in our judging. He did NOT say we could not judge! We must judge ourselves first to have the right to judge (Mt. 7:1-5).
- C. The apostle Paul also spoke of hypocrisy, that is not practicing what we preach. He reprimanded the Jews for doing it (Rom. 2:17-22).
- D. This echoes Rom. 2:13 that says only doers are justified not hearers or possessors.
- E. We have the same problem today, if we say that we have the word, we must live it, or be a hypocrite!

IV. HYPOCRISY KILLS EVANGELISM.

- A. The devil loves to use hypocrisy to kill evangelism.
- B. If he can point people away from the message (the Bible) and to the sin (hypocrisy) of the messenger he can keep people from accepting the truth.
- C. Example of lady who said she won't go to church with (because of) the hypocrites there. But she

- shops, goes to ball games, eats out with, etc., with them. The best place for hypocrites is the church!
- D. One who is searching will probably not investigate a church with hypocrites, even if that church has the truth. He/she will go where the people are not hypocrites, even if they practice error.
 - E. The apostle Paul makes this very clear in Rom. 2:26.
 - F. Therefore, we must be different from the world, practice what we preach, and not be hypocrites.
 - G. It is possible to "be straight as a gun barrel doctrinally, and just as empty spiritually"

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. To overcome hypocrisy:
 - 1. Learn godly wisdom (Jas. 3:17).
 - 2. Be real (not something you are not).
 - 3. Practice what you preach.
- B. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.