

“The Failure of Religion”
Matthew 21:28-46

I. Religious People are all Talk and no Walk

A. The Parable

B. The Crux of the Matter

C. The Interpretation

D. Why Many Religious People Aren't Saved

Matthew 7:21

“Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

“That is the reason we have so many 'mushroom' converts, because their stony ground is not plowed up; they have not got a conviction of the Law; they are stony-ground hearers. Before peace can be spoken to your hearts, you must be made to see, made to feel, made to weep over, made to bewail, your actual transgressions against the Law of God.” - George Whitefield

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II. Religious People are Covenant Breakers

A. The Parable

Exodus 24:3

“Then Moses came and reported to the people all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do!”

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Jeremiah 7:25

“Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have sent you all *My servants the prophets*, sending them daily, again and again.”

Jeremiah 26:4,5

“And you shall say to them, ‘This is what the Lord says: “If you do not listen to Me, to walk in My Law which I have set before you, to listen to the words of *My servants the prophets*, whom I have been sending to you again and again, but you have not listened;

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C. How Religious People “miss the boat”

1. Religion is Self-serving

2. Take for Granted the Patience of God

Romans 2:4

“Do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?”

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C. How Religious People “miss the boat”

1. Religion is Self-serving

2. Take for Granted the Patience of God

3. Don't Fear Retribution from God

4. Want to “seize” an Inheritance

1 Peter 1:3,4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, *to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you*

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D. The Miscalculation of the Religious Leaders

E. The Consequences of their Blunder

Proverbs 14:12

“There is a way which seems right to a person,
But its end is the way of death.”

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III. Religious People Fail to Heed Warnings

1 Peter 2:4-8

And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by people but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For this is contained in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a choice stone, a precious cornerstone, And the one who believes in Him will not be put to shame.” This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for unbelievers, “A stone which the builders rejected, This became the chief cornerstone,” and, “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this they were also appointed.

