

Living a Christ-Centered Life

LESSON 11: Avoiding Extreme Religion

Questions to consider:

1. How does a Christian's desire to practice right religion get out of hand?
2. How does a Christian's desire to practice faith lead them away from righteous living?
3. What are the challenges we face in living out a Biblical life?
 - "It is by grace you have been saved?" (Eph. 2:8-9)
 - "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matt. 5:48)

Word Study Challenge (Words taken from the NIV)

V.42 "Neglect"

V.52 "Hindered"

Read the following excerpts from Luke 11. What do these passages teach about avoiding extreme religion?

28 He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it."

37 When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. 38 But the Pharisee, noticing that Jesus did not first wash before the meal, was surprised.

39 Then the Lord said to him, "Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. 40 You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? 41 But give what is inside [the dish] to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.

42 "Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

43 "Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces.

46 Jesus replied, "And you experts in the law, woe to you, because you load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, and you yourselves will not lift one finger to help them.

47 "Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your forefathers who killed them.

52 "Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering."