

**THE CONDEMNATION OF RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY**

Matthew 23:1-39

**PART ONE – THE GENERAL CONDEMNATION - Matthew 23:1-12**

**Introduction:** Matthew chapter 23 records the last words Jesus ever spoke in the Temple. They will be words of exposure and sharp rebuke. If yours is the view that “all roads lead to Rome” and that any sincere faith and practice will do then I would encourage you to read very carefully Jesus’ condemnation of the religion of the Pharisees as seen here in Matthew 23. In today’s climate Jesus’ words would be condemned as “hate speech”. Jesus obviously does not accept the modern-day view that all roads finally lead to Heaven – on the contrary He taught that there is only one road that leads to Heaven and that road is very narrow, very exclusive. Jesus unashamedly and authoritatively stated that “*...no man comes to the Father except through Me.*” Any teaching that obscures that truth or keeps men and women from it is damnable and Jesus said as much. The bitterest denunciations of our Lord are addressed to the men whose outward lives were respectable and whose religious professions were the loudest. The words of JC Ryle are very relevant to this issue:

*“So long as the world stands, this chapter ought to be a warning and a beacon to all ministers of religion. No sins are so sinful as theirs in the sight of Christ.”*

**I. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF THE PHARISEES – 23:2-7**

**A. THEIR \_\_\_\_\_ EXPOSED – 23:2-3a**

**B. THEIR \_\_\_\_\_ EXPOSED – 23:3b-4**

**C. THEIR \_\_\_\_\_ EXPOSED – 23:5-7**

**1. THEIR LUST FOR \_\_\_\_\_ – 23:5**

**2. THEIR LUST FOR \_\_\_\_\_ – 23:6**

**3. THEIR LUST FOR \_\_\_\_\_ – 23:7**

II. THE \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE DISCIPLES - 23:8-12

A. THE SOURCE OF \_\_\_\_\_ - 23:8

B. THE SOURCE OF \_\_\_\_\_ - 23:9

C. THE SOURCE OF \_\_\_\_\_ - 23:10

D. THE MEASURE OF \_\_\_\_\_ - 23:11-12