

Connect

What's good about grace?

Verses – Matthew 23:13-22 (CSB)

13 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You shut the door
of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you don't go in, and
you don't allow those entering to go in. 15 "Woe to you, scribes and
Pharisees, hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to make one
convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a
child of hell as you are! 16 "Woe to you, blind guides, who say,
'Whoever takes an oath by the temple, it means nothing. But
whoever takes an oath by the gold of the temple is bound by his
oath.' 17 Blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple
that sanctified the gold? 18 Also, 'Whoever takes an oath by the
altar, it means nothing; but whoever takes an oath by the gift that is
on it is bound by his oath.' 19 Blind people! For which is greater, the
gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? 20 Therefore, the one who
takes an oath by the altar takes an oath by it and by everything on
it. 21 The one who takes an oath by the temple takes an oath by it
and by him who dwells in it. 22 And the one who takes an oath by
heaven takes an oath by God's throne and by him who sits on it.

Study

1. Why do you think Jesus made repeated warnings to the scribes and Pharisees in Today's Verses? Why do their teachings slam shut the door to the kingdom? (Matthew 5:20 18:6; Luke 20:46-47) What are we to do? (Matthew 19:25-26; Acts 2:38)

2. What issue or issues do Today's Verses deal with? How do these hypocrisies cause legalism as opposed to grace? (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 7:18; Galatians 2:16)

☕ **DISCUSS:** How can religious leaders in our day become like the scribes and Pharisees in Jesus' time? How might we err like the scribes and Pharisees?

🏃 **APPLY:** What is the remedy to foster righteousness when there is a temptation to act like a Pharisee as depicted in today's verses? How could they have gotten things right? (Matthew 23:23; John 10:38) How can we? (Romans 3:22-23)

Share

Since coming to Christ, in seeking to be Christlike, how has grace grown in your lifestyle and attitude? Share some specific examples.

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Pray for the Lord to help us to be humble before others.
- Would you like to share your love and hope in the Lord with **VBS 2023**? Contact: sumiko@tokyobaptist.org