

Why Does God Abhor the Doctrine of the Pharisees?

By Francis E. Goodrick

PREFACE

REFERENCES USED IN THIS PUBLICATION

- **American Standard Version** (ASV or AV) is a version of the Bible that was released in 1901. It soon came to have other names, such as the American Revised Version, the American Standard Revision, the American Standard Revised Bible, and the American Standard Edition. By the time its copyright was renewed in 1929, it had come to be known by its present name, the American Standard Version.
- **Diaglott** is a two-language polyglot translation, of the New Testament by Benjamin Wilson, first published in 1864. It is an interlinear translation with the original Greek text and a word-for-word English translation in the left column, and a full English translation in the right column.
- **King James Version** (KJV) references are used throughout this publication unless otherwise noted.
- **Revised Version** (RV) (or English Revised Version) of the Bible is a late 19th-century British revision of the King James Version of 1611. It was the first and remains the only officially authorized and recognized revision of the King James Bible.
- **Wuest:** Kenneth Samuel Wuest (1893–1962) was a noted New Testament Greek (Κοινή) scholar of the mid-20th century...produced his own English translation of the New Testament (the Wuest Expanded Translation – abbreviated WET) based on Nestle's critical text.

Note: *Definitions of references pulled from WikipediA, The Free Encyclopedia, January 2013.*

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Let's look at Mark 7, seeking to understand why Jesus wanted even the people around Him to understand why He wanted them to recognize the wrongness in the Pharisee's doctrines.

"And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats? And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man." [Mar.7:18-20]

Mark 7:18-20 shows that Jesus was very much displeased with the lack of understanding of His disciples in this matter. Why didn't they understand that the Pharisees would disfellowship anyone who didn't agree with them in this matter because it was so important to the Pharisees? To them, eating with unwashed hands meant that they were **DEFILED AND NOT ACCEPTED IN THE SIGHT OF GOD**. If an Israelite had some kind of a breaking out on their bodies, Moses made them wash their bodies to purify themselves. So, what the Pharisees were doing was claiming that **WASHING THEIR HANDS CLEANSED THEIR SOULS**. If they, like modern cults attempt to do, could get others to agree on this seemingly unimportant matter, they would get them to swallow the rest of the Pharisee's erroneous doctrines.

"Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders." [Mar.7:1-3]

Mark 7:1 tells us that they had come from Jerusalem, 50 to 100 miles, to set our Lord straight. Shouldn't Jesus straighten them out? Shouldn't He show them that they were wrong in endorsing traditions instead of believing that only the blood could cleanse the soul? It was not outward cleanliness but the cleanliness of the heart that God was concerned with; cleanliness from the vileness and lusts of the heart, from persecution of believers, etc. The Pharisees wanted to show their authority by demanding that everyone who didn't even conform to their least requirements must be expelled from their synagogues...just like some power-hungry churches do today.

Read Mark 12:38-40 and see how the Pharisees wanted to be worshipped in showy clothes, etc. Their religion was showmanship, parading their proud religious flesh. Also, read Luke 18:9-14 and Matthew 23. What an exposure!

In Matthew 6 we read how they wanted everybody to see how they gave alms and how they prayed in the market places. They sought the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

John 3 shows how even a Pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin, could be so blind and ignorant of the new birth.

The word **Pharisee** means "*separated ones*" and they were a Jewish sect that upheld the oldest tradition of Israel in the time of Jesus Christ.

Characteristics of the Pharisees¹:

- Jewish sect [Act.15:5].
- Upholders of traditions [Mar.7:3, 58; Gal.1:14].
- Sticklers for Mosaic Law [Act.26:5, Phi.3:5].
- Very careful in outward details [Mat.23:23].
- Rigid in fasting [Mat.18:11-12].
- Zealous for Judaism [Mat.23:15].
- Lovers of display [Mat.23:5-7].
- Covetous [Luk.16:14].
- Cruel persecutors [Act.9:1-2, Phi.3:5-6].

The chief errors of the Pharisees:

- Outward righteousness [Luk.7:36-50].
- Blindness to spiritual things [Joh.3:1-10].
- Emphasis on the ceremonial Law [Mat.15:1-9].
- Perversion of Scripture [Mat.15:1, 9].
- Self-justification before men [Luk.16:14-15].
- Hindering potential believers [Joh.9:16, 22].
- Refusal to accept Christ [Mat.12:24-34].

Christ's descriptions of the Pharisees:

- Vipers [Mat.12:24, 34], blind [Mat.15:12-14], hypocrites [Mat.23:13-19], serpents [Mat.23:33], and children of the devil [Joh.8:13, 44].

The attitude of the Pharisees toward Christ:

- They sought to: Destroy Him [Mat.12:14], tempt Him [Mat.16:1, 19:3], entangle Him [Mat.22:15], and accuse Him [Luk.11:53-54].

“Was Jesus wrong in counterattacking Phariseeism? Absolutely not! Is God going to judge and condemn the Pharisee at His Great White Judgment Throne in Revelation 20:11-15? Certainly He will. Will God judge the Pharisees for helping Christ's enemies crucify Jesus? Will He punish the Pharisees for killing Christians? Certainly He will. Did the Apostle Paul have to give up his Pharisaic religion to become a Christian? Certainly, and he did. After the Apostle Paul's conversion, did he attack the false doctrine of the Pharisees? Yes.

False cults attack and persecute Christians everywhere. Christians must counterattack their false doctrines and insist that they accept Jesus as their only Savior and hope of heaven.”

[[QUOTATIONS TAKEN FROM THE GUIDEPOSTS FAMILY CONCORDANCE.](#)]

¹ Taken from *The Guideposts Family Concordance*.

In conclusion, we must see how poisonous some religions are, which of course Jesus knew; and, which finally the apostles also understood. We love their souls, just as we have loved Nicodemus, but not their doctrines and their terrible hatred of our Lord and Savior and His followers.

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