



THE RELIGIOUS FRONT

AUGUST 7, 2023

MATTHEW 15:8 NKJV – (8) ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me.

Jesus has called these Pharisees hypocrites right to their faces. After pointing out that they are using tradition to give people an exemption from God's command to honor their parents, Jesus has declared that they are making the Word of God nothing (**Matthew 15:4–6**).

Now Jesus is applying a prophecy from **Isaiah 29:13** to the Pharisees. These are words the Lord gave to Isaiah to say to the people. Jesus makes clear that these words apply to the men standing in front of Him, as well.

The Lord said to Isaiah that the Israelites were honoring Him only with their words, but not with sincerity or truth. They were going through the motions of religion. They put on a show by saying all the right things at the right times. They were not committed to God in their hearts, however. They were devoted to a religious system, not to the God it was meant to honor.

Unfortunately, we have submitted the external for the internal. Even in the church, we are much further advanced in material matters than in spiritual matters. It is largely due to the decline in prayer. With the decline of the work of holiness has come the decline of the business of praying. We may excuse it, yet it is all too clear that the emphasis in the work of the present-day church is not on prayer.

The church is not producing praying men and women because the church is not intently engaged in this one great work of holiness.

We “***The church***” must repent immediately!

SCRIPTURE READING: DANIEL 11:34

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: When you believe in something with all your heart and mind, you bring it to life.