

## Job 8.11-13—The Ruin of Hypocrites

### What is a hypocrite?

- I. A hypocrite is an impersonator and pretender who pretends to be someone else. His outside doesn't agree with his inside.
  - A. In Scripture, the hypocrite is an evil one who pretends to be godly. He's dubbed a wicked, vile, godless, defiled person because he's lying about who he really is and he's using a show of godliness (the best dress ever!) as a mask to cover it.
  - B. Either knowingly or self-deceptively, he lives a life of hypocrisy. He appears to be what he's not and hides what he is, Mt 23.27-28; Mk 7.6
  - C. It's no wonder Christ tells us to beware of hypocrisy! Lk 12.1

### What are the marks of a hypocrite?

- I. Using a reed to illustrate the marks of a hypocrite, Bildad says:
  - A. A hypocrite is empty and lifeless inside. No faith in Christ, no living union with Christ, no new heart, no Spirit of God, cp. Ezk 36.26-27
  - B. A hypocrite bends with the wind, goes with the flow. He's shaped, not by the Word and Christ of truth, but by his circumstances, company, and gain.
  - C. A hypocrite bears no real fruit to God. His holiness is all negative; he has no positive conformity to Christ at all. He's green with leaves but barren of the fruits of faith, Mk 11.13-14.
  - D. A hypocrite gets his sustenance from the things of this earth. He appears to be heavenly-minded, but he's really sensual, earthly, and worldly. He lives under the mask of heaven with a heart chockfull of earth (cp. Hab 3.17-18). His religion is a means to his own selfish ends.
  - E. A hypocrite withers rapidly as soon as his sustenance is dried up. Being heartless and lifeless, his profession dies as soon as the gain he gets from a show of godliness dries up.
- II. At root, the godless hypocrite is *a forgetter of God*. This is the source of all his sin; it's at the heart of all his hypocrisy, Rom 1.21-23
  - A. He doesn't think on God, Ps 10.4
  - B. He disobeys God, Dt 8.11; cp. Ecc 12.1
  - C. He thinks lightly of God, Jer 18.15
  - D. He departs from God, living on earth as if there were no God in heaven.
  - E. He forgets what kind of God God is and treats Him as if He is like himself, Ps 50.21

### What are the hopes of a hypocrite?

- I. The hopes of a hypocrite are the things his confidence is placed in, the sandy foundations on which he's built his house/show of religion—none of which is Christ, the Rock, Mt 7.26

### What's the end of a hypocrite?

- I. All his hopes will utterly perish. But worst of all, the "Well done" he expected will be replaced with "Depart from me." For all his godly attire, he'll fare no better than the devils on the day of judgment, Mt 7.22-23

### What lessons are we to take from this passage?

- I. **1)** if forgetfulness of God is the mother of hypocrisy then forgetfulness of God is exceedingly sinful and we should be shun it.
  - A. It's so sinful because God's done so much to be remembered by, Jer 2.31; Mt 5.45; 1Cor 11.24-25
  - B. It's so sinful for us to forget God because God so abundantly remembers us, Isa 49.15-16; Ps 8.4
  - C. Let us be mindful of this terrible sin and mortify it by making a habit of calling God to remembrance every day, Job 1.5; Ps 5.3; Ps 59.16; Ps 88.13
- II. **2)** if the hypocrite's hope shall utterly and finally fail him, then let us be sure of our sincerity *today!*
  - A. There'll be nothing worse on the day of judgment than to find out you were a self-deceived hypocrite, Mt 7.22-23; 25.11-12
  - B. It's your chief end *today* to make a most diligent search in your hearts and lives for the essence of salvation, that seed of all true Christianity, a self-denying faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, Ezk 36.26-27; Acts 5.31
  - C. Make sure *today* of your standing before God. Die to self-love, pride, and vainglory, and *ask God* to show you who and what you are, Ps 139.23-24. It's more than foolish to carry on as if all is well and never examine yourself. And it's just as foolish not to look because you're afraid of finding out that you're a hypocrite.
    1. Christ came to save hypocrites—if they repent. So whatever you find, Christ is the remedy for it.
    2. The danger isn't in finding what you didn't expect; it's in not caring to look. Take heed to the command in 2Cor 13.5.