

**Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, September 17, 2023**

**Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew**

**Message 104. “Binding with Heavy Burdens” – Matthew 23:1-12**

**Pastor Phillip M Way**

Intro: Israel’s rejection of God’s messengers through the ages has now reached the point of no return as they reject both the message and the Person of His Son. It is time for judgment to fall on this generation and Jesus begins by condemning the religious leaders as false teachers, ravenous wolves, and hypocrites. This is Jesus’ last public sermon (23-24).

- I. Do as They Say, not as They Do – vs. 1-3
  - A. Warning the Multitudes and Disciples (vs. 1)
    1. The Character of False Teachers – 2 Peter 2:1-3; Jude 8, 10, 12-13
    2. Warning about the Last Days – 2 Tim. 3:1-9
  - B. They Sit in Moses’ Seat (vs. 2) – Quote #1
    1. Authority – they sat to teach, in a specific seat in the synagogue
    2. Irony – they are not qualified to be sitting there (teaching) - 1 Tim. 3:2, 7; James 3:1-2
    3. Teaching their tradition, not God’s Word – Matt. 15:3, 6; Mark 7:8-9, 13
  - C. Don’t Follow Their Example (vs. 3)
    1. Test what they say – Acts 17:11
    2. Don’t live like they live – 1 Cor. 11:1
- II. Heavy Burdens and No Help – vs. 4
  - A. Rules for Others that Don’t Apply to Them
  - B. Rules upon Rules - Talmud
  - C. A Heavy Yoke – Matt. 11:28
  - D. Commands but No Help/Condemnation but Nor Relief – Quote #2
- III. To Be Seen by Men – vs. 5-7
  - A. Before Men instead of for God – Matt. 6:1-6, 16-18
  - B. Clothing to Be Noticed – immodesty
    1. Phylacteries – Deut. 6:8
    2. Tassels – Num. 15:38-39; Deut. 22:12
  - C. Best Seats – prominence – James 2:2-4
  - D. Greetings in the Market – public adoration
- IV. Titles and Honors – vs. 8-10
  - A. This is not about the Literal Sense
    1. We have teachers – 1 Thess. 5:12-13; 1 Cor. 12:28-29; Eph. 4:11
    2. We have earthly fathers – Gen. 17:5; Acts 3:13; Eph. 6:4; Luke 11:11-13; 1 Cor. 4:15
    3. We have spiritual leaders – Heb. 13:7, 17
  - B. This is about Demanding Honor that Belongs to Christ/God – Rev. 4:11; 5:12; 15:4
    1. Rabbi, Rabbi – teacher
      - a. Christ is our Teacher
      - b. We are brothers and sisters – equal – Matt. 10:24
    2. Father – Our One, True Father is God – Matt. 6:9; James 1:16-18
    3. Leader/Guide – one who shows the way – John 14:6
- V. Exalted and Humbled – vs. 11-12 – Matt. 18:1, 4; 20:16; James 4:6

## **Cross References**

### **2 Peter 2:1-3**

2 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

### **Jude 8, 10, 12-13**

8 Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.

10 But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.

12 These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots; 13 raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.

### **2 Timothy 3:1-9**

3 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; 9 but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

### **Quote #1**

“When in the pulpit, they preach so well that it is a pity they should ever come out; but, when out of the pulpit, they live so ill that it is a pity that should ever come in.” – Matthew Henry

### **1 Timothy 3:2**

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;

### **1 Timothy 3:7**

7 Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

### **James 3:1-2**

3 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. 2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

### **Matthew 15:3**

3 He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?”

### **Matthew 15:6**

6 then he need not honor his father or mother.’ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.

### **Mark 7:8-9**

8 For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men—the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do.” 9 He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.

### **Mark 7:13**

13 making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

### **Acts 17:11**

11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

### **1 Corinthians 11:1**

11 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

### **Matthew 11:28**

28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

### **Quote #2**

“In the unregenerate heart, vice cannot be restrained and virtue cannot be produced.” – John MacArthur

### **Matthew 6:1-6**

6 “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. 5 “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

### **Matthew 6:16-18**

16 “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 so that you do not appear to men to be

fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

**Deuteronomy 6:8**

8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

**Numbers 15:38-39**

38 “Speak to the children of Israel: Tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. 39 And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the Lord and do them, and that you may not follow the harlotry to which your own heart and your own eyes are inclined,

**Deuteronomy 22:12**

12 “You shall make tassels on the four corners of the clothing with which you cover yourself.

**James 2:2-4**

2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, 3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” 4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-13**

12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

**1 Corinthians 12:28-29**

28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles?

**Ephesians 4:11**

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

**Genesis 17:5**

5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

**Acts 3:13**

13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go.

**Ephesians 6:4**

4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

**Luke 11:11-13**

11 If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

**1 Corinthians 4:15**

15 For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

**Hebrews 13:7, 17**

7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

**Revelation 4:11**

11 “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

**Revelation 5:12**

12 saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

**Revelation 15:4**

4 Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.”

**Matthew 10:24**

24 “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.

**Matthew 6:9**

9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

**James 1:16-18**

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

**John 14:6**

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

**Matthew 18:1, 4**

18:1 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 20:6**

6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle, and said to them, ‘Why have you been standing here idle all day?’

**James 4:6**

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”