How People Are Turned off to the Kingdom of God
Matthew 23:13

Introduction:
A. With some friends, God needs no enemies.
B. Pharisees professed devotion to God.
   1. A few, like Saul, were sincere —most were hypocritical.
   2. Sat in Moses seat, but many walked in Satan’s shoes.
   4. With kingdom at hand, now refused to enter and hindered others.
C. Even as citizens of the kingdom, we will turn people off if they see us waking in the steps of the Pharisees:

Discussion:
I. By Giving Only Lip-Service To God’s Law. (vv. 1-3; cf. Matt. 15:8).
   A. Pharisees talked a good game (vv. 29-31)
   B. Actions often louder than words. (cf. Jas. 2:14-18; 1 Pet. 3:1).
II. By Using A Double Standard. (v. 4).
   A. In what one expects and demands of another and himself.
   B. In what teaches another and himself. (Rom. 2:21).
   C. In what he criticize or judges another and himself. (Rom. 2:21; Matt. 7:1-5).
III. By Practicing Religion for Show. (vv. 5-12; cf. Matt. 6:1-6).
   A. Not wrong to been seen or heard doing any religious act. (Cf. Paul & Silas in jail).
   B. Is wrong if it is done to be seen of men or to impress them with our devotion.
IV. By Inventing Loopholes to Sidestep God’s Will. (vv. 16-22.)
   A. Pharisees’ loopholes. (Cf. Mt. 15:5)
   B. Denominational loopholes.
      1. Mark 16:16 - “Does not say he that is not baptized. 
      2. Acts 20:7 - “Does not say ‘every’ first day....”
   C. Our own loopholes.
      1. Misuse of relative terms. (Long, modest, etc.)
      2. Demand specific condemnation - ignore general principles.
V. By Practicing Selective Obedience. (v. 23)
   A. Problem was not in insisting obeying in smallest detail.
   B. Problem in was not insisting on obeying in every detail.
      1. Offend in one point - guilty of all. (Jas. 2:10).
      2. Obeying “religious” acts - neglect inward purity.
VI. By Religion Coated Ungodliness (vv. 25-28).
   A. Like sugar coated pills, chocolate coated grasshoppers; “doctored” used car.
   B. Many vices are hidden (even given respectability) under a coat of religion.
      2. Often hatred, malice, gossip, meddling and vengeance.
      3. Sometimes even laziness and snobbery.

Conclusion:
A. Don’t allow yourself to be turned off to the acceptance of the kingdom.
B. Don’t allow yourself to be turned off to the responsibilities of the kingdom.
C. Don’t allow yourself to be turned off to the blessings of the kingdom.
D. Don’t allow yourself to be turned off to the hope of the kingdom. (1 Cor. 15:24).