

HYPOCRISY IN PRAYING
(Matthew 6:5-8)

- I. The General WARNING (Matt. 6:1; cf. 5:16)
 - A. The practice of SUPERFICIAL piety
 - B. The expectation of TEMPORAL reward

- II. Concerning HYPOCRITICAL Praying (Matt. 6:5)
 - A. Its PRACTICE
 - 1. EXPECTS you to do this
 - 2. Can be DISPLAYED in several ways
 - a. As a RITUAL
 - b. Using PRESCRIBED prayers for PARTICULAR occasions
 - c. Limited to specific TIMES and OCCASIONS
 - d. Assuming LONG prayers were more EFFECTIVE
 - e. Using “meaningless REPETITIONS”
 - f. Desiring to be SEEN and HEARD by others
 - 3. CONDEMNS personal ostentation

- a. Striking a POSE in order to IMPRESS
- b. Praying at LOCATIONS chosen for VISIBILITY and the likelihood of a LARGER audience
- 4. Accuses those who do so of HYPOCRISY
 - a. Prayer becomes PERFORMANCE
 - b. Makes OTHER MEN its AUDIENCE
- B. Its REWARD
 - 1. Mistakenly assumed such prayers would EARN MERIT
 - 2. Actually earns only the HONOR of MEN

III. Concerning SINCERE Praying (Matt. 6:5-8)

- A. Its PRACTICE
 - 1. EXPECTS you to do this
 - 2. Better to retreat to a CLOSED INNER ROOM
 - 3. God SEES in SECRET
- B. Its REWARD
 - 1. God will REPAY you
 - 2. God knows what you NEED before you ASK