



## BIBLE TALK

**Mike King**

Question: Is it possible to be religiously devout and still be lost?

Answer: Yes it is. The Bible gives examples of those who were religious, but religiously wrong.

The **Pharisees** of Matt. 23:15 were cited by Jesus as being “*a child of hell.*” They were lost because they said and did not (v. 3), doing their works to be seen of men (v. 5). As a result, He shut up the kingdom of heaven against them (v. 13). They prayed long prayers out of pretense (v. 14), strained the gnat and swallowed a camel (v. 24), outwardly appearing righteous before men but full of hypocrisy within (v. 28). **Another Pharisee** (Lk. 18:9-14) – he prayed, fasted, gave tithes and did many other things which were not evil, yet he was lost because he trusted in himself that he was righteous (v. 9, 14; Prov. 3:5). **Saul of Tarsus** (Acts 9:22, 26) – Saul was very religious (Phil. 3:4-6), living with a good conscience (Acts 23:1) and a faith that compelled him to want to know what to do (Acts 9:6), penitent to the point of fasting (Acts 9:9). He was still lost (Acts 22:16) because he had not complied with God’s law of pardon. Consider the life of the **Eunuch** of Acts 8:25-39; **Cornelius** found in Acts 10; the **one talent man** in Matt. 25:14-30; **five foolish virgins** of Matt. 25:1-13; and the **Laodicean** church mentioned in Rev. 3:14-22. There are **those today** who will be rejected in judgment if changes are not made (Matt. 7:21-23). We must not default sincerity, but when differing from God’s will, we can live, die and face judgment sincerely wrong. We must be content to permit the Bible to be our guide. We cannot claim ignorance today, but repent if wrong (Acts 17:30).

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