

San Juan church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About...

Jesus and Political Correctness

When John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, people from Jerusalem, Judea, and the district around the Jordan River were confessing their sins and being baptized by John. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" (Matt. 3:1-7).

The Pharisees were the most influential of the Jewish sects at the time of Christ. Although they held to orthodox doctrines, they also added their traditions to God's word (Matt. 15:3). The Sadducees were a Jewish sect that came largely from the priesthood and upper classes with direct interests in the Temple worship. They opposed Christ as vigorously as the Pharisees.

Therefore, John knowing the heart of these people, told them to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. John's message to the religious leaders warned them that God was at the point of cutting down the tree (Israel) and casting it into the fire (punishment). With John's warning he said Jesus will baptize them with fire. Fire in this case clearly points to the judgment of God on those who were not living righteously. Fire, then, is reserved for those whom God will judge. John then said to these leaders "God will collect the wheat [the saved] into His barn while the chaff [the lost] are burned up in unquenchable fire." Fire is used to describe the process of judgment of those who have not obeyed God (Matt. 3:8-12).

When Jesus addressed the religious leaders of His day, He said, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you will receive greater condemnation." Jesus then told them, "You fools and blind men!...You blind guides who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!...You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?" The question we need to ask ourselves, "was Jesus politically correct when He made these statements in Matthew 23:2-33 to the religious leaders of that time?"

When Paul wrote to the church in Galatia he boldly said, "I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and wanting to distort the gospel of Christ," (Gal. 1:6-7). Paul then made the statement that we should all consider today, when we try to be politically correct, "For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? For am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ (Gal. 1:10).

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:
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