

Disciples of Christ:
Beware of Dead Religion

Matthew 23: 1-12

June 11, 2023

Verse 1 - 3

Disciples of Christ: *Dead religion
seizes authority*

In Jesus' last sermon, Jesus warns about the religious system:

- He warns about the Pharisees:

What Moses says, *do!*

Obey what Moses taught

What the Pharisees add, *don't do!*

The Three Tenses of "Salvation"

Past Tense:

Separation from the *Penalty* of Sin

You have been saved.

Justification

1 Corinthians 6:11; Titus 3:5
Colossians 1:13, 14; Eph. 2:8, 9
Romans 5:1, 2; Colossians 2:13, 14

Present Tense:

Separation from the *Power* of Sin

You are being saved.

Sanctification

Philippians 1:6; 2:12,13; 2 Cor. 5:17
2 Peter 3:17, 18; Romans 8:29
2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:16, 17

Future Tense:

Separation from the *Presence* of Sin

You will be saved.

Glorification

Matthew 10:22; James 1:12
Hebrews 10:39; Revelation 2:10
Philippians 3:20, 21; 1 John 3:2

Disciples of Christ:

A better you is emerging

Looking more like Jesus and less like
the old you

Verse 4

Disciples of Christ: *Dead religion
places heavy loads*

Dead religion goes beyond what God commands, it adds one's own preferences

All the adding is designed to make one righteous before God – **WRONG!!**

What makes a person spiritual?

- Submitting to the Holy Spirit
- Walking in the Spirit
- Dwelling in Christ
- I want to please God more than I want to please myself and my flesh

Verse 5 - 7

Disciples of Christ: *Dead religion
loves the praise of men*

Pharisees want the attention – “*all eyes on me*” syndrome

They dressed in religious garb to impress the people - *all for show!*

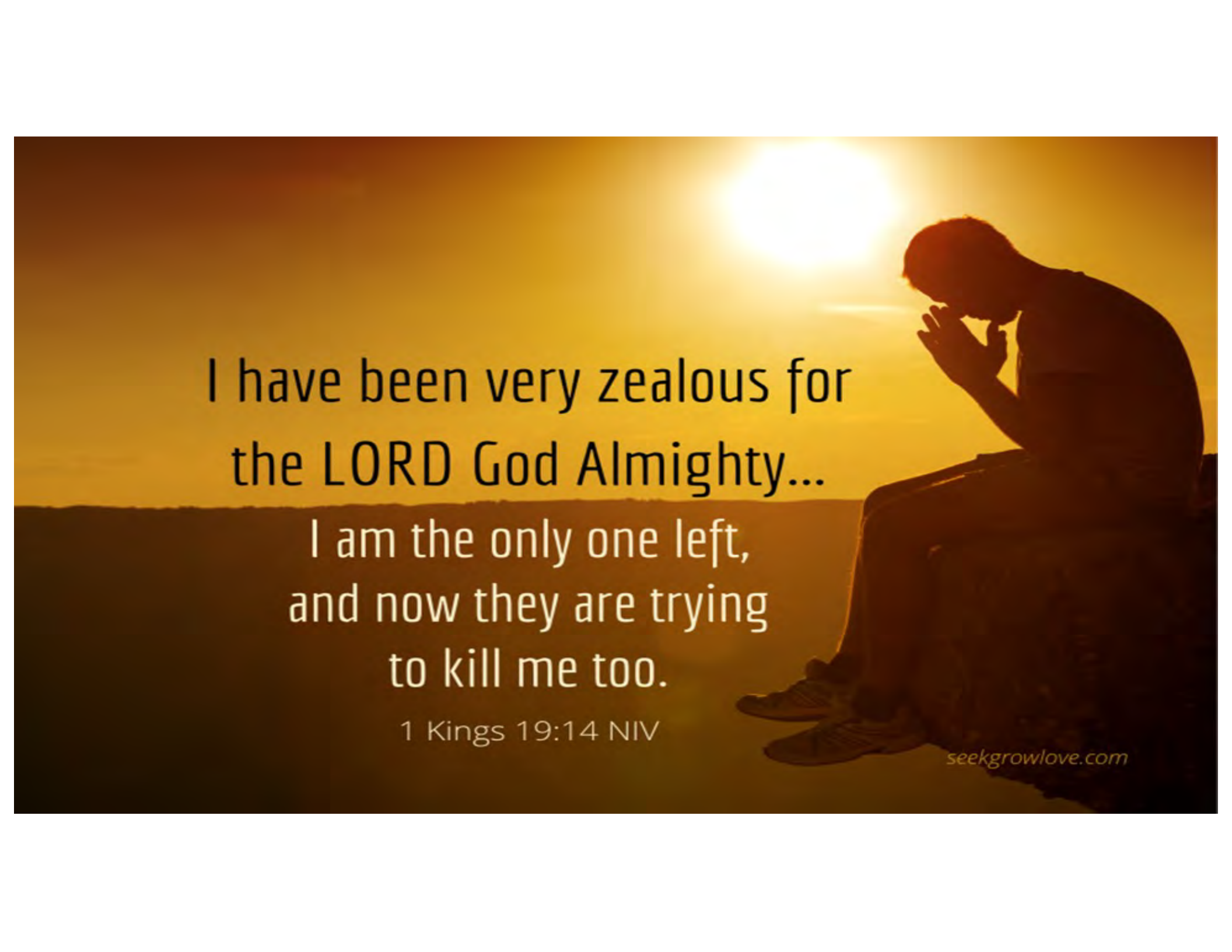


Jesus, *only*, is to be extolled in the body of Christ

**All in the body of Messiah are important!
All have a role; all have a purpose**

When you feel undervalued, taken advantage of, *think of Jesus!*

Think of Elijah!



I have been very zealous for
the LORD God Almighty...

I am the only one left,
and now they are trying
to kill me too.

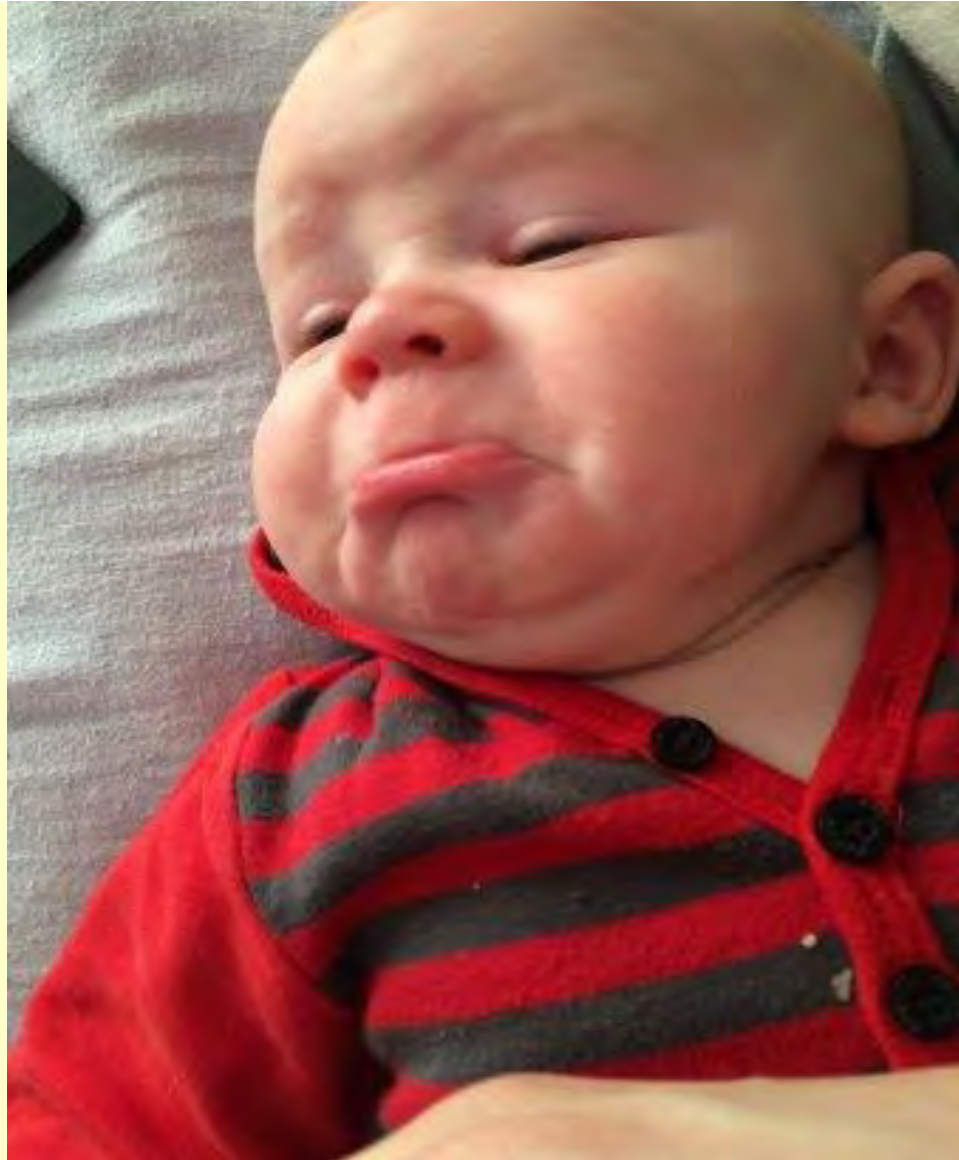
1 Kings 19:14 NIV

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GOD:

“I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal.” (1 Kings 19: 18)

God does not revere a pouting, poor me spirit



Verse 8 - 10

Disciples of Christ: *All eyes on Jesus*

Jesus tells His disciples not to strive for a title that gives you recognition and prestige

What is Jesus doing here?

He is condemning pride that seeks after titles

Verse 11 - 12

Disciples of Christ: *The first shall be last*

Greatness in the eyes of God is not about titles, but obedience and service

Greatness in this world has always been about a push to the top

- Stampede over others, pull them down, so I can promote myself**

Climbing the corporate ladder together

with your

- BOSS

- PEERS

- SUBORDINATES

THIS IS NOT THE JESUS WAY!!



2 Peter 1:5-7

Love

Brotherly

Kindness

Godliness

Perseverance

Self-control

Knowledge

Goodness

Faith

Diligence

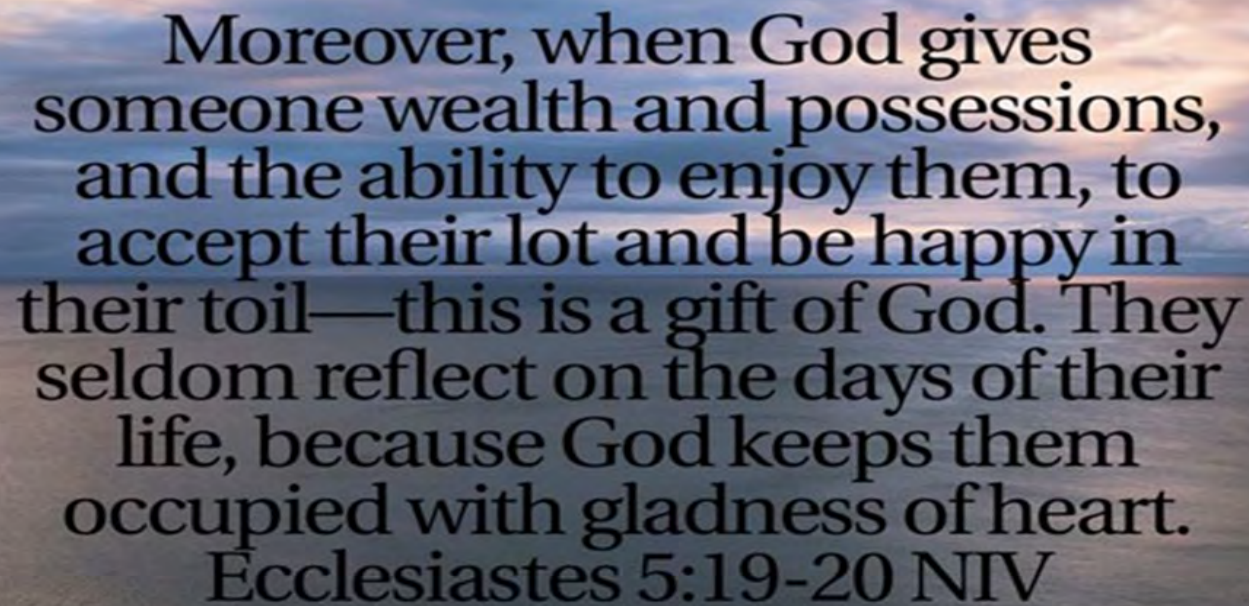
**Christians must resist this urge!
It is not about self-promotion, but God promotion!**

Psalm 75:6-7

6 For exaltation comes neither from the
east Nor from the west or from the south.
7 But God is the Judge: He puts down one,
And exalts another.



A time for balance: There is healthy ambition; work hard, get ahead, to enjoy the product of your labor



Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. They seldom reflect on the days of their life, because God keeps them occupied with gladness of heart.
Ecclesiastes 5:19-20 NIV

We are instructed in Scripture to have ambition and to work hard – Colossians 3: 23-24

Allow Jesus to exalt you!

**Humble yourselves therefore
under the mighty hand of God,
that he may exalt you in due time.**

1 PETER 5:6 KJV

Work hard, with excellence

Have a great attitude!

and

Allow God to promote you!

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Dead religion is a religion that is in it for the show, self-promotion, and glory stealing

Don't steal the glory that God deserves! *(easy to do)*

While here:

Mediocrity? NO WAY!

Be all out for God:

Obey God, serve God, worship God in spirit and truth, and have a ***GREAT ATTITUDE!***

Oswald Chambers puts it this way:

***“MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST,
MY GREATEST FOR HIS GLORY!”***

Disciples of Christ: DARE TO BE DIFFERENT!

THIS GLORIFIES GOD!!