

Self-Serving Christians

Self-serving Christians are in for a rude awakening. The people I'm talking about are the ones who read God's Word, but are not "of" His Word. They may even know and be able to recite scripture, maybe even eloquently. But in their hearts they seek only the surface meanings, not the deeper meanings, of the scriptures. They view the Word through a "grid" of self-acquisition.

A lot of people like this "rise to the top" of many professions, from where they can "infect" a whole organizational culture with awful things like paranoia, greed and narcissism. And the whole time they feel justified by the very Word of the Lord, but there's no justification they can lean on that will ultimately win the day for these people.

John 5:24-47 (MSG)

²⁴ "It's urgent that you listen carefully to this: Anyone here who believes what I am saying right now and aligns himself with the Father, who has in fact put me in charge, has at this very moment the real, lasting life and is no longer condemned to be an outsider. This person has taken a giant step from the world of the dead to the world of the living.

²⁵⁻²⁷ "It's urgent that you get this right: The time has arrived—I mean right now!—when dead men and women will hear the voice of the Son of God and, hearing, will come alive. Just as the Father has life in himself, he has conferred on the Son life in himself. And he has given him the authority, simply because he is the Son of Man, to decide and carry out matters of Judgment.

²⁸⁻²⁹ "Don't act so surprised at all this. The time is coming when everyone dead and buried will hear his voice. Those who have lived the right way will walk out into a resurrection Life; those who have lived the wrong way, into a resurrection Judgment.

³⁰⁻³³ "I can't do a solitary thing on my own: I listen, then I decide. You can trust my decision because I'm not out to get my own way but only to carry out orders. If I were simply speaking on my own account, it would be an empty, self-serving witness. But an independent witness confirms me, the most reliable Witness of all. Furthermore, you all saw and heard John, and he gave expert and reliable testimony about me, didn't he?

³⁴⁻³⁸ "But my purpose is not to get your vote, and not to appeal to mere human testimony. I'm speaking to you this way so that you will be saved. John was a torch, blazing and bright, and you were glad enough to dance for an hour or so in his bright light. But the witness that really confirms me far exceeds John's witness. It's the work the Father gave me to complete. These very tasks, as I go about completing them, confirm that the Father, in fact, sent me. The Father who sent me, confirmed me. And you missed it. You never heard his voice, you never saw his appearance. There is nothing left in your memory of his Message because you do not take his Messenger seriously.

³⁹⁻⁴⁰ "You have your heads in your Bibles constantly because you think you'll find eternal life there. But you miss the forest for the trees. These Scriptures are all about *me*! And here I am, standing right before you, and you aren't willing to receive from me the life you say you want.

⁴¹⁻⁴⁴ "I'm not interested in crowd approval. And do you know why? Because I know you and your crowds. I know that love, especially God's love, is not on your working agenda. I came with the authority of my Father, and you either dismiss me or avoid me. If another came, acting self-important, you would welcome him with open arms. How do you expect to get anywhere with God

when you spend all your time jockeying for position with each other, ranking your rivals and ignoring God?

⁴⁵⁻⁴⁷ “But don’t think I’m going to accuse you before my Father. Moses, in whom you put so much stock, is your accuser. If you believed, really believed, what Moses said, you would believe me. He wrote of me. If you won’t take seriously what *he* wrote, how can I expect you to take seriously what *I* speak?”

Let us strive, with every fiber of our being, NOT to become like that.

I hope you have an amazing day!!

- Jack