Secret Atheism

Zanesville, OH | June 3, 2018 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** Matt. 23:28

**Intro**:

* Fewer topics than what we’re about to study should move us to question our lives and our decisions as believers of God. There is a plague that affects believers of every kind, of every type, of every facet of this life. No one is free from this problem. The problem for the believer is: **Secret Atheism.**

**Definition:**

* One who claims to believe God and His revealed will but whose thoughts and actions of the heart reflect a well-formed façade revealing disbelief in God.

**A disguise to maintain sinful behavior: Psa. 14:1-3**

* 1. Tares and Wheat: Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43
		1. The devil deceives many people to think they are Christians, but they are really secret atheists.
		2. God knows the difference between those who are his and those who are not (Matt. 7:21-23).
	2. Pharisees Exposed: Matt. 23:15, 23-25, 27-28, 33; John 8:44
		1. Disguised as religious leaders (“believers”), the Pharisees are shown to be offspring of the devil.
		2. Practical atheism (a form of secret atheism) denotes the true intentions of a person (Tit. 1:16)

**Secret Atheism:** *“Is the spring of all the wicked practices in the world: the disorders of the life spring from the ill dispositions of the heart”* (Stephen Charnock).

**Does my life reflect that I believe God?**

1. Do I believe that God exists, or do I believe Him? (Gen. 15:6; 17:23).
2. Does seeking God mean going through the motions or filling every aspect of my life with Him? (Psa. 105:4)
3. Am I complacent or dissatisfied with my spiritual evaluation? Do I want to grow closer to God despite whatever obstacles come my way? Is my mind made up or am I still thinking about it? (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29)
4. Is Jesus really everything I say He is to me? (Heb. 12:2)