

For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. But **the chief priests stirred up the crowd** to have him release for them Barabbas instead. (Mk 15:10-11)

As the whole world stops and thinks about Jesus' death and churches from all over vie for our attendance on Easter Sunday, it is important to remember that it was the **majority religion** that put Jesus to death on that fateful Friday.

Woe to **those who call evil good and good evil**, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! (Isa 5:20)

MATTHEW 23 – Not All Religion Is Good For You

But woe to you,
scribes and
Pharisees, hypocrites!
for you shut up the
kingdom of heaven
against men: for you
neither go in
yourselves, neither
suffer you them
that are entering
to go in. (vs. 13)



Woe to you
lawyers! For
you have taken
away the key of
knowledge. You
did not enter
yourselves, and
you hindered
those who
were entering.
(Lk 11:52)

MATTHEW 23 – Not All Religion Is Good For You

Woe to you,
scribes and
Pharisees,
hypocrites! for **you**
devour widows'
houses, and for a
pretense make long
prayer: therefore
you shall receive
the greater
damnation.
(Vs. 14)

For among them are those who
creep into households and capture
weak women (2 Tim 3:6)

For such men are false apostles,
deceitful workmen, **disguising**
themselves as apostles of Christ.
And no wonder, for even Satan
disguises himself as an angel of
light. So it is no surprise if his
servants, also, disguise themselves
as servants of righteousness. Their
end will correspond to their deeds.
(2 Cor 11:13-15)

MATTHEW 23 – Not All Religion Is Good For You

Woe to you,
scribes and
Pharisees,
hypocrites! for you
compass sea and
land to make one
proselyte, and
when he is made,
you make him
twofold more the
child of hell than
yourselves. (Vs. 15)

Let no one deceive you in any way. For
that day will not come, unless **the
rebellion** comes first, and the man of
lawlessness is
revealed,
**the son of
destruction,**
(2 Thess 2:3)

...Thus you will recognize them
by their fruits. (**Matt 7:15-20**)



MATTHEW 23 – Not All Religion Is Good For You

Woe to you, you blind guides, which say, Whoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!... (vs. 16-22)



For Moses said, "Honor your father and your mother; and, Whoever curses father or mother, let him die the death:" But you say, "If a man shall say to his father or mother, 'It is Corban,' that is to say, a gift, by whatever you might be profited by me; he shall be free..." Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which you have delivered: and many such like things do you. (Mk 7:9-13)

MATTHEW 23 – Not All Religion Is Good For You

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought you to have done, and not to leave the other undone. (vs. 23)

The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

(Ps 119:160)



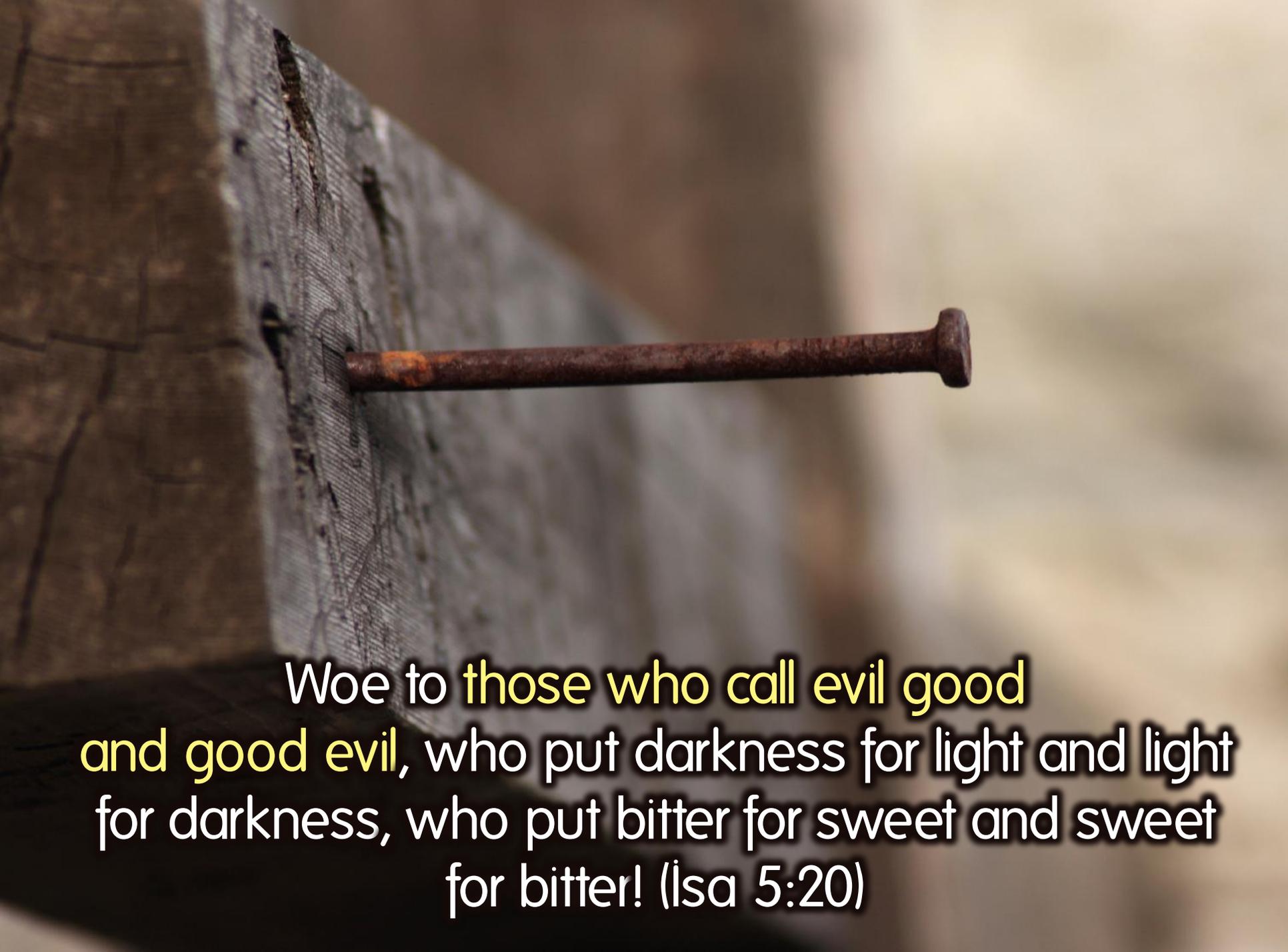
These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh. (Col 2:23)

How big of a deal is it that people preach the total truth of God's Word?

How important is it that church leaders not be materialistic and all about the money?

How important is it that church leaders treat holy what God says?

How important is it that church leaders equip the people with the keys of knowledge of the Bible?



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and good evil, who put darkness for light and light
for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet
for bitter! (Isa 5:20)