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Beware of Hypocrisy: Who Is Teaching Us What?

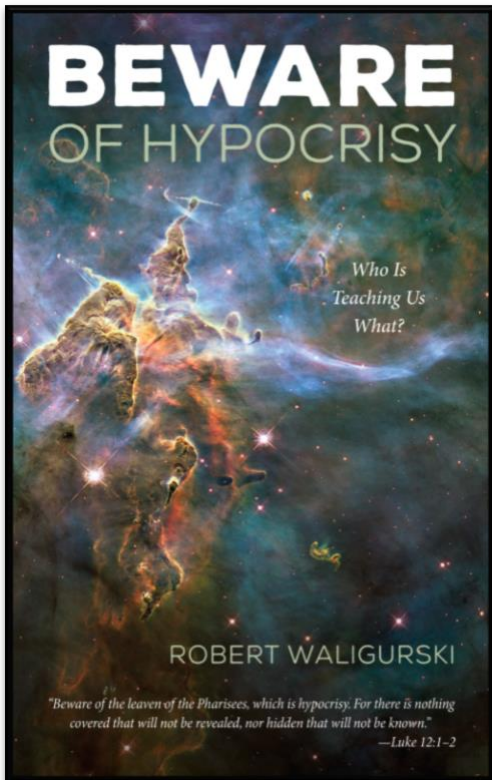
by Robert Waligurski

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New Title from Robert Waligurski ***Beware of Hypocrisy: Who Is Teaching Us What?***



Surveys have shown that only about 10 to 30 percent of modern-day Christians have ever read through the entire Bible, much less extensively studied it. Instead, most rely on their church for the majority of their understanding of the teachings of Jesus. Exclusively relying on one institution for such vital information can be dangerous, yet this seems to be a trend in our society. *Beware of Hypocrisy* was written to explain why this trend is dangerous, and to encourage Christians to study the New Testament, especially the Gospels, themselves.

After almost two thousand years of making assumptions and inventing doctrines, churches have subtly changed, over time, the teachings of Jesus into something different from what is presented in the Scriptures. This will be demonstrated by analyzing the teachings of Jesus regarding a given topic as presented in the Bible, and then contrasting it with what churches teach and do regarding the subject.

The book concludes with encouragement from hope in the Word of the Lord. In addition, techniques for studying the Bible are presented, along with recommendations on Bible translations, online Bibles, and Bible apps.

Robert Waligurski is a senior design engineer at Safran, designing the interiors of Boeing and Airbus aircraft. He has a physics degree from the University of Illinois and three graduate degrees in engineering from the University of Southern California. He has held faculty positions at Chapman University College and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He has spent over twenty years researching the Bible and ancient manuscripts, seeking the truth about God, Jesus, humankind, and reality.

Why is it important for Christians to study the New Testament, especially the Gospels, in depth for themselves?

After almost two thousand years of making assumptions and inventing doctrines, churches have subtly changed, over time, the teachings of Jesus into something different from what is presented in the Scriptures. Thus, the churches should not be relied upon as an individual's primary source for understanding the truth about God, Jesus, sin, and repentance. Instead, Christians should go directly to the best documentation we have on Jesus's teachings, which is the New Testament. Persistent studying of scriptures forms an accurate knowledge base of Jesus's teachings that an individual can rely upon for guidance when facing challenges and temptations in life.

What should the average Christian reader expect to get out of reading *Beware of Hypocrisy*?

Beware of Hypocrisy presents many little-known historical facts about the evolution of the churches that may be shocking to modern-day Christians. For instance, many do not realize that for hundreds of years, the early Church taught that abortion was not murder as long as it was performed within the first forty days for males and eighty days for females, which is completely contrary to many churches' current position on the subject. In addition, the book will bring about a new perspective, for most Christians, on modern-day churches and how they have evolved into what they are today.

Why was it important for you, personally, to write *Beware of Hypocrisy*?

Throughout history humankind has been purposefully tempted into sinning, lied to, and led astray from the truth about God, Jesus, sin and repentance. Over the last few decades, this activity seems to have intensified dramatically to the point where most people's moral compasses seem to have gone way off course. Only the true teachings of the Lord can reveal the false assumptions currently being accepted as truth in our modern society and churches, and steer an individual back towards the way to salvation. As a young adult, I did not have this perspective and blindly followed the teachings of the Church and society without having the knowledge base of the Gospels to see the hypocrisy. In hindsight, I wish I had *Beware of Hypocrisy* available to read when I was a teenager, so I could have avoided many of the false assumptions and mistakes that I made when I was young.

What have you discovered during your journey writing *Beware of Hypocrisy*?

While having others review my first draft of *Beware of Hypocrisy*, I had a few individuals ask me how I go about researching and studying scriptures. As an engineer, researching a subject is second nature to me, so I never gave it much thought. However, it became apparent to me that others could use some guidance in this area, so I added a section to my book on techniques I use for studying scripture. I also discovered an unexpected amount of hostility and negative feedback from individuals who love their churches and refuse to think they are anything but perfect.

What was the most difficult challenge in writing *Beware of Hypocrisy*?

I had no desire to write a book, especially on a subject such as this, but felt it was my Christian responsibility to do so. The subject matter was often depressing and difficult to research and write about, so I would have to force myself to work on it. Furthermore, trying to gently discuss things that are often difficult for others to read, and putting a positive spin on such negative topics was a challenge. People can be very sensitive about the beliefs they hold, so respectfully challenging the assumptions and beliefs they have held for most of their lives is a difficult task.

What do you think the clergy of the churches mentioned in *Beware of Hypocrisy* will think about your book?

I truly hope religious leaders of all denominations will read my book and see my perspective; however, I sadly anticipate many may reject what I wrote. Even my own parents, who have been raised in and love the Catholic Church, had a hard time reading my book. However, if clergy are truly teaching their congregations, though their church's doctrine, things that go against scripture, they may be guilty of a great sin and should repent, for Jesus stated, "But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matt 18:6 NKJV).

Do you have any plans for your next book?

Christian teens and young adults require significantly more knowledge of Jesus's teachings, compared to what I had as a young adult, when faced with the inevitable pressures to drink, fornicate, use drugs, etc. A solid Christian foundation of faith based on in-depth knowledge of Jesus's teachings is needed before being confronted with these temptations. My next book will be written for teens and young adults, and will focus on Jesus's teachings on issues not addressed in *Beware of Hypocrisy* like fornication, drinking alcohol, honoring your mother and father, stealing, coveting, etc. I plan to market the book to this demographic and I hope it will be utilized in teen and young adult Christian education classes, so others can avoid the mistakes that I have made when I was young.

An Excerpt from *Beware of Hypocrisy: Who Is Teaching Us What?*

I wrote this book as a warning to those who learned all they know about Christianity from a church instead of through reading and studying the New Testament, especially the Gospels, themselves. Exclusively relying on one institution for such vital information can be dangerous, yet this seems to be a trend in our society. My hope is that this book will help you to understand why you should not fall into this trap.

After years of analyzing the teachings of Jesus, I am saddened by how much of what churches are teaching and doing appear to be contrary to these teachings of Jesus. After almost two thousand years of making assumptions and inventing doctrines, churches have subtly changed, over time, the teachings of Jesus into something different from what is presented in the Scriptures.

Despite the problems that will be discussed in this book, I have no desire to see the churches closed down, since they do provide vital services to humankind. They offer a mechanism where the community of faithful can gather to worship, pray, discuss Scripture, share Communion, support one another, and assist the needy. Furthermore, it is one of the best ways of introducing people to Christianity. However, I hope to see positive changes come about in the established churches and new churches coming into existence that better follow the teachings of Jesus as presented in the New Testament.

A Protestant pastor once told me that a large portion of his time is spent meeting with people seeking his consent to do something the Scriptures plainly say is a sin. Usually they think that their circumstances are unique or dire enough to warrant an exemption. They think if a church official can be convinced that their sin is justified, then God will think so also, thus soothing their conscience.

In a similar way throughout history, a constant pressure has been put upon churches, especially by emperors, kings, and other prominent individuals, to permit various sins. Once a church permits a sin for one individual, the sin usually becomes a part of that church's doctrine, permitting others to commit the sin seemingly guilt free.

Over the centuries, various denominations have declared different doctrinal stands regarding what is a sin and what is not. This is why so many different churches declare such wildly varied and oftentimes opposing doctrines. For example, some churches celebrate homosexual marriages, while others teach homosexuality is a mortal sin.

Modern churches have such diverse doctrines that people can now shop around for a church with teachings and doctrines that are copacetic with their chosen lifestyle. Because the Bible does not give specifics on every issue, people oftentimes demand the churches provide definite, unambiguous doctrine on all important issues so they can live their lives without questioning whether or not something they are doing, or not doing, is a sin. Churches need congregants for their survival; therefore, many have evolved to accommodate the desires of the masses.

My analysis approach throughout this book will be to first state the teachings of Jesus regarding a given topic, as presented in the Bible, and then contrast it with what churches teach and do regarding the subject.

The issues of greatest concern, which I discuss in this book, include how churches have effectively reversed the teachings of Jesus regarding adultery, marriage, money, greed, prayer, and idolatry. I will show that the Catholic Church considers itself infallible. I will also demonstrate how it appears that most churches have made their survival and what is good for their organizations more important than the Word of the Lord.

