

Matthew 23:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!

Analysis

This text illustrates key Reformed principles: *sola Scriptura*, *sola gratia*, and *sola fide*. The passage demonstrates how God's Word speaks authoritatively to human need, revealing both our depravity and God's merciful provision through Christ.

Historical Context

The historical setting involved complex religious and political dynamics. Jewish leaders maintained authority through Roman tolerance while common people sought deliverance. Jesus' teaching addressed both immediate concerns and eternal truths.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does this verse deepen your appreciation for Christ?
2. What false beliefs or practices does this text correct?
3. How should you share this truth with others?

Interlinear Text

Οὐαὶ	ὑμῖν	όδηγοὶ	τυφλοὶ	τοῦ	λέγοντες	ὅς	ἄν
Woe	unto you	guides	ye blind	which	say	Whosoever	
G3759	G5213	G3595	G5185	G3588	G3004	G3739	G302
όμόσῃ	ἐν	τοῦ	ναοῦ	οὐδέν	ἐστιν·	ὅς	δ'
shall swear	by	which	of the temple	nothing	it is	Whosoever	but
G3660	G1722	G3588	G3485	G3762	G2076	G3739	G1161
όμόσῃ	ἐν	τοῦ	χρυσῷ	τοῦ	ναοῦ	ὁφείλει	
shall swear	by	which	the gold	which	of the temple	he is a debtor	
G3660	G1722	G3588	G5557	G3588	G3485	G3784	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 15:14 (Parallel theme): Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

Matthew 23:24 (Parallel theme): Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

Matthew 23:17 (Temple): Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?

Matthew 23:26 (Parallel theme): Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Matthew 23:19 (Parallel theme): Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?

James 5:12 (Parallel theme): But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.