

# Matthew 23:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

## Analysis

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This verse reveals profound theological truth central to Reformed understanding of Scripture. The passage demonstrates God's sovereignty and grace working through human circumstances. Christ's teaching here challenges contemporary religious assumptions while pointing to deeper spiritual realities.

## Historical Context

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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

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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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

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πάντα δὲ τὰ ἔργα αὐτῶν ποιοῦσιν πρὸς τὸ θεαθῆναι  
all But works G3586 they do G4160 for G3588 to be seen G2300  
G3956 G1161 G2041 G4160 G4314 G2300

τοῖς ἀνθρώποις· πλατύνουσιν δὲ τὰ φυλακτήρια αὐτῶν  
G3588 of men they make broad But G3588 phylacteries G846  
G444 G4115 G1161 G5440 G846

καὶ μεγαλύνουσιν τὰ κράσπεδα τῶν ιματίων αὐτῶν  
and enlarge the borders G3588 G2899 G3588 garments G846  
G2532 G3170 G2440 G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 12:43** (Parallel theme): For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

**John 5:44** (Parallel theme): How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

**Deuteronomy 6:8** (Parallel theme): And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

**Luke 16:15** (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

**Philippians 2:3** (Parallel theme): Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

**Exodus 13:9** (Parallel theme): And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt.

**Deuteronomy 22:12** (Parallel theme): Thou shalt make thee fringes upon the four quarters of thy vesture, wherewith thou coverest thyself.

**Proverbs 3:3** (Parallel theme): Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

**Matthew 9:20** (Parallel theme): And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment:

**John 7:18** (Parallel theme): He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

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