Introduction
Where is Heaven and how do we get there?
Barbara Walters Special on ABC
• 90% of people in the United States believe there is a heaven.
• Almost everyone believes they will go there.
• But their understanding of heaven and how you get there is quite different.
• Who's right and how do we know?

Jesus never suggested for a moment that any faith would do. He taught that there is only one way to heaven and that way is through him.

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
John 14:6

First we are going to look at three dangers that can keep people from heaven.
Then we will look at the seven woes Jesus pronounced on false religion.

I. the DANGER of HYPOCRISY
Verses 1-3

“The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat.”
In as far as their teaching is accurate you must obey them.
“But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach.”
Our faith must be real and personal. The only way we get to know God is through his Son Jesus Christ.
II. the DANGER of LEGALISM

Verse 4

What makes Jesus’ denunciation of the Pharisees so striking is that these were the most highly respected religious leaders of their day....If these guys won’t make it into heaven, who will?

“They tie up heavy loads and put them on men’s shoulders.”

They believed in placing a “fence around the Torah”.

What’s So Amazing About Grace by Philip Yancey

We can never gain God’s approval by our works.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

III. the DANGER of PRIDE

Verses 5-12

“Everything they do is done for men to see.”

• Phylacteries – leather Scripture boxes worn on the forehead and arm.
• Tassels – hanging from the four corners of their prayer shawl.
• Places of honor at banquets and in the synagogue.
• Greetings and titles.

Not so with you. The church is a family. We are all equal before God. There are different gifts, but they are given by the Holy Spirit. Those who are called to lead are to be servants of Christ and his church.
IV. Ultimately Jesus condemned the Pharisees and all false religion for SEVEN THINGS

1. For failing to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Verse 13
2. For converting people to their own religion and not to God’s. Verse 15
3. For being blind guides. Verses 16-22
4. For trivializing religion. Verses 23-24
5. For greed and self-indulgence. Verses 25-26
6. For hypocrisy and wickedness. Verses 27-28
7. For murdering God’s prophets. Verses 29-36

It was a judgment spoken with tears. Verses 37-39

Conclusion

Jesus’ warning is for all of us. Hypocrisy, legalism and pride can keep us from heaven. Any religion, denomination or church that denies that Jesus Christ is Lord and that He is the only way of salvation is a false religion. “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12