

Appearance Versus Reality

You can fool people, but you cannot fool God.

- *“The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.” (Luke 16:14–15, ESV)*

The Scriptures serve to reveal the way to a relationship with God, not function as a smokescreen for ungodly behavior.

- *“The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it. But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void. “Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery.” (Luke 16:16–18, ESV)*

A view from eternity gives a stark contrast between appearance and reality.

• The earthly appearance:

• *“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores.” (Luke 16:19–21, ESV)*

A view from eternity gives a stark contrast between appearance and reality.

• The view from eternity:

• *“The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.” (Luke 16:22–23, ESV)*
