

CHRISTIANITY FOR SCEPTICS, ENQUIRERS & BELIEVERS

A very warm welcome

Our speaker today is Chris Fishlock

Our passage is Matthew 6:1-6

Notices:

- 1. Partners' Event.** Please join us on Monday 8 March, 6.30 - 7.15pm, on Zoom. A chance to meet together as a wider group of Gospel Partners, to look back with thanks on all that God has been doing this last year and to look forward and pray for the many opportunities in the year ahead. Sign up [here](#).
- 2. Giving Appeal.** Please visit our [website](#) to watch our giving appeal video and for further details on our 2021 budget and how to give to the lunchtime talks.
- 3. Spotify.** Enjoyed today's talk? Want to share it with others? Recordings of our talks are now posted on [Spotify](#) each Friday. Visit our [website](#) for our full library.
- 4. New?** Please fill in a [contact card](#) to receive a weekly reminder email from the St Nick's Talks.

6 "Beware of practising your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. **2** "Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **3** But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. **5** "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. **6** But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Talk outline

Introduction: exposing a fake

1. Motives: Do you desire man's approval or God's approval?

2. Rewards:

...if we seek man's approval (v2, 5)

...if we seek God's approval (v4, 6)

3. Examples:

a) Christian financial giving (v2-4)

b) Christian praying (v5-6)

Conclusion:

*"Only one life 'twill soon be past,
only what's done for Christ will last!"*

Questions: How does a right understanding of our motives & rewards for Christian living help us in our Christian life? Think of examples. How does Jesus' teaching on Christian giving liberate us to be generous? How does Jesus' teaching on prayer help us to be genuine?