



# Thursday Thought

by Pastor Myron D. Atkinson

## 5-19-16 False Advertising

**Verse for the week:** James 1:8 (NLT) “Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.”

Most people have a favorite place they like to buy pizza. It may be Little Caesars, Dominos, Pizza Hut, PaPa Johns, Franks, etc. My favorite pizza place is Pizza King Pizza in Marion, Indiana. They make an incredible pizza that has thin crust and is cut in squares. Whenever I'm back in Indiana I like to stop and grab a pizza. Needless to say, I was very excited when I was driving around Rocky Mount, and what do I see but a Pizza King Restaurant. My mouth began to water and my mind filled with memories of the delicious pizza. Anticipation continued to grow and the opportunity came for me to stop and order a pizza. I walked into the restaurant but the familiar smells weren't there. In fact, as I looked at the menu I noticed they didn't have pizza even listed. I felt foolish in asking, but the name was "PIZZA King", so I asked if they had pizza. They gave a very lengthy answer that boiled down to “NO!” I was so disappointed! Their sign said one thing on the outside but there was something totally different on the inside.

There are many people who are like that. They promote themselves at work, on Facebook, with friends, and at church one way, but who they really are is something totally different. It sounds a lot like the word hypocrisy (noun - the practice of claiming to have moral standards or beliefs to which one's own behavior does not conform; pretense). Jesus confronted the religious leaders of His day in **Matthew 23:27-28 (NLT)**, He said, **“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. 28 Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.**

It's easy to point the finger at people and say they are hypocrites. I often hear people say that they won't go to church because there are too many hypocrites there. If we are honest with ourselves, we all have some hypocrisy in us. There are things that we know we should do and we don't do, and things that we know we shouldn't do and we do them, and there are times we put on a front to hide who we really are. This isn't a healthy place for us to be. It can damage us, our relationship with others and our relationship with God. Today is a great day to begin making the necessary changes, if you aren't going to serve pizza then take the sign down and begin to get real with God and others.

**Question to ponder:** What area in your life are you being hypocritical? What will you do to be more consistent in this area?