

discerns truth and righteousness for itself by direct intuition, which counts on maintaining the loftiness of its purpose and the purity of its aims by constant communion with God. Within certain limits all these types are legitimate and have their own value. But each is beset with its own dangers, unhappily too often realized. Jewish history illustrates both the types and their dangers. The Old Testament furnishes at least some of the materials for discriminating judgment as to where the true emphasis should be laid.

The ceremonial type naturally arose from the ceremonial regulations which form such a large portion of the law of Moses, and found its chief encouragement originally in the priests, who had an interest in the conscientious observance of these regulations. In the post-exilian period, when, by the whirligig of politics, the priests were led to take a somewhat different attitude, their earlier role was taken up by the party of the Pharisees, who prided themselves on the punctiliousness with which they observed all the Mosaic rules, and even their remote implications, that had come to be recognized as traditions by the elders. They rigidly observed the laws as to clothing, food, things clean and unclean, feasts, fasts, tithes, hours of prayer, and Sabbatic restrictions. Their whole conduct was hedged up between rites and forms, until they made their lives a burden through the fear of transgressing them.

Nor must it be assumed that they all were hypocritical in the zeal with which they insisted on these things. In some respects the Pharisees have received less than justice at the hands of history. Their position was certainly one that favored hypocrisy, and there must have been many hypocrites among them to warrant the condemnation of Christ. But if they had been all hypocrites they would speedily have forfeited the respect of everybody. There must have been many earnest, God-fearing men among them to keep the hypocrites in countenance, and we need not doubt that in not a few instances they found support for the maintenance of right character in the very rigidity of their system.