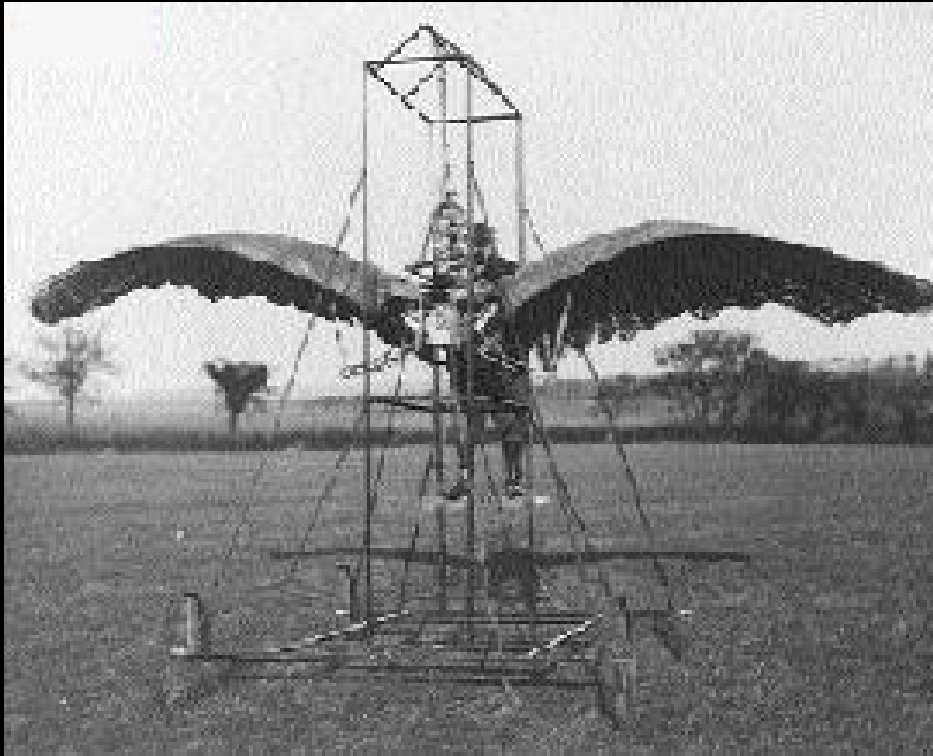
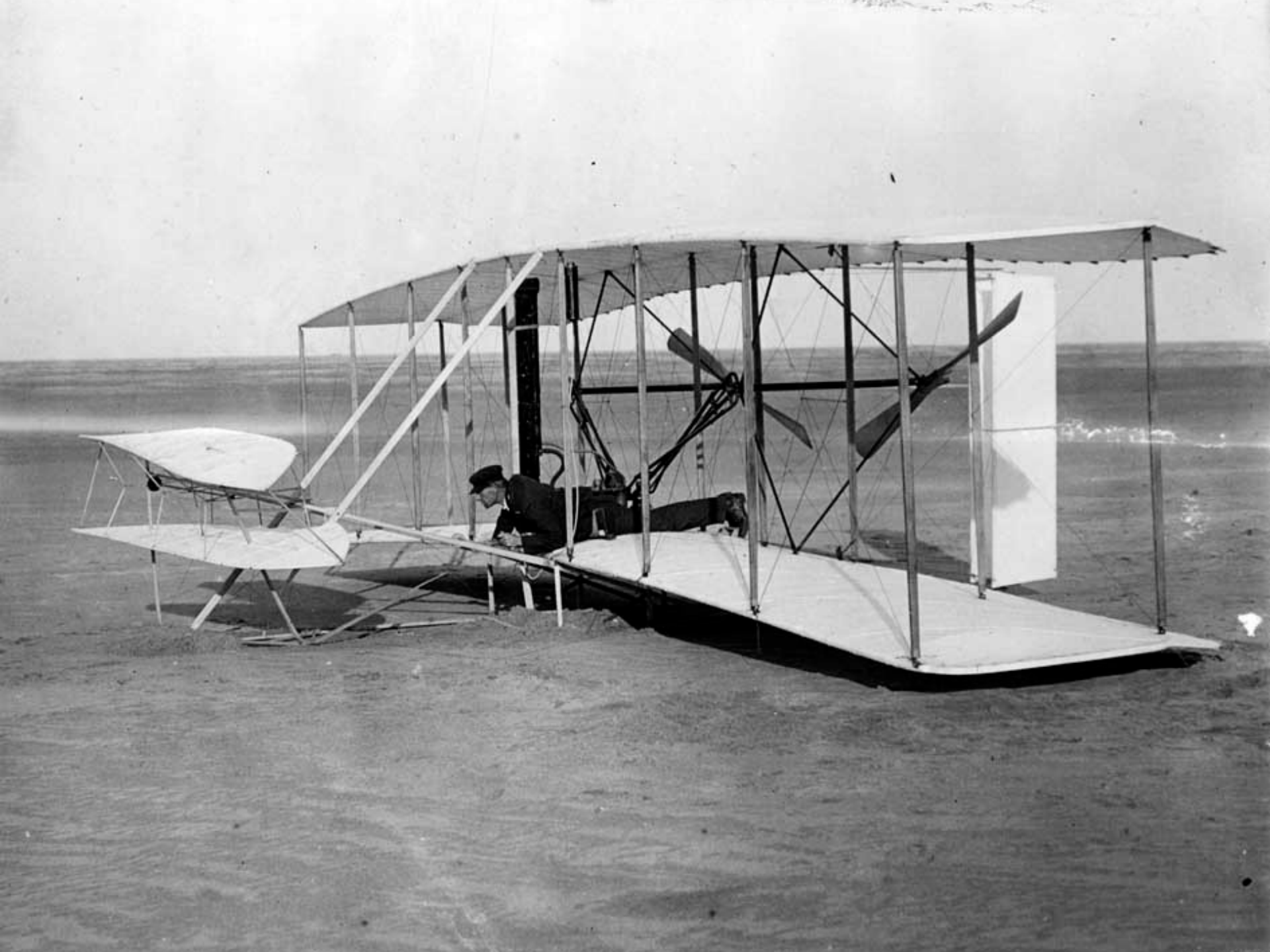


# CHRISTIANITY IS FUNCTION OVER FORM



**MATTHEW 23:23-28**



**I. God wants to transform us from rigid rule keeping to righteousness (v.23).**



- Who is the audience in **Matthew 23**?
- Why does the form of righteousness not accomplish the function of righteousness?
- How can we avoid the temptation to center in on forms rather than function?

## II. God wants to transform our perspective to see the big picture (v.24).



- In what sense do Pharisees strain gnats and swallow camels?
- How can we make sure that we are not blind to what is important?

**III. God doesn't want externals. He longs to transform us from within (v.25-26).**



- What is wrong with doing righteous deeds to be seen by men?
- How can God accomplish His transformation within our lives?

**IV. God wants to transform us from appearing pure to being pure (v.27).**



- **Why is the external appearance of purity insufficient?**
- **How does internal purity have more to do with function than form?**

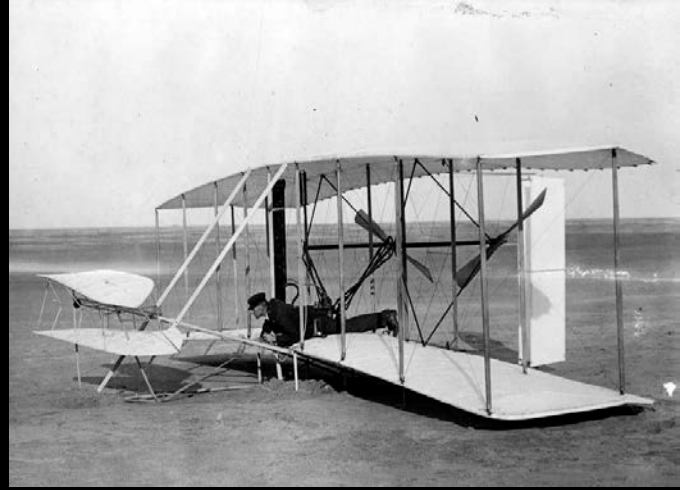
**V. God wants to transform us from hypocrisy to genuine purity (v.28).**



- **What is hypocritical about form keeping?**
- **How can purity result from centering in on the function of following Jesus?**



**Lesson Aim:** To prioritize our lives so that we are focused on the functions of righteous living and are not distracted by merely keeping forms.



- What is righteous living really about?
- How have we counted seeds of cumin?
- How can we grow beyond simply trying to look righteous?
- What can be done with our hidden corruption?
- What will help remove our focus on forms so that we can fly?

**-How can we help?**