

Whiting the Sepulchre

On my first trip to the capitol after being elected Senator, my son's Matthew and Noah accompanied me.

I asked Matthew what he thought. His comment: "It reminds me of a whited sepulchre".

He was referring to the Bible. In Matthew 23 verse 27, Jesus says:

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness."

It is an apt description. What goes on in here, whether well intentioned or not, too often belies the beautiful building.

Now, we meet with the building undergoing furthering whiting and repair.

The estimated cost of these repairs is more than 500 million dollars. The public is again excluded from attending, so we are essentially meeting in secret. It is nice that the meetings are available electronically, but that is not a substitute for in person public attendance.

No-one really knows if the earthquake measures will work. They are experimental. The cost is so high that few buildings can be done.

If we are going to earthquake harden one building in Oregon, why pick the capitol? It is only fully occupied part time and our most outstanding Oregonians work elsewhere.

And, yes, it is cold in here. Very cold.....