

Rom. 14:19
So then let us
follow after
things which
make for
peace, and
things
whereby we
may edify one
another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

Ana Surface 2010

John 8:32 And
ye shall
know the
truth and the
truth shall
make you
free.

July
26
2020

HOW'S MY JUDGMENT?

by Jim Stauffer

Judgment is defined as; the ability to make considered decisions or come to sensible conclusions. Following are synonyms listed for judgment: discernment, acumen, shrewdness or common sense.

While I do not wish to set myself up as the example here and dismiss others as inferior in this matter, I do wish for each of us to take a minute or two and consider whether we are using good judgment or not.

One of the things I always appreciated about my father was his ability to suppress his immediate emotional response to a given situation and therefore practice discernment, acumen and common sense. One of the things our parents tried to teach us was to use "good judgment".

This meant in all areas of life. Many times it had to do with the selection of friendships. Will you be led into places to do things that would be wrong by the friends you select was a common question parents seem to ask. What they hoped to teach us was to desire good and not evil and therefore to learn to recognize the signs of good and evil and to choose good with the understanding it is better in the long run. Now that is a truism whether speaking of earthly or spiritual matters.

Next they tried to teach us to look for wisdom from the citizens of our community whose lives indicated they had made wise choices. A broad and imperfect comparison, but one that will illustrate is to consider the school superintendent as wiser than the town drunk. One presumes he has risen to his respected position by making good choices in his career compared to the man who relies upon strong drink to help him forget all the bad choices he has made.

Judgment is like many other things, it requires practice. All of us have learned some things the hard way. That is, we made the wrong choice and suffered

the consequences. So, we learned to listen to Mom and Dad and we began to learn from others who made good choices and our lives have benefitted from making the right choices.

The choices we make in earthly matters affect our immediate life, but those we make in spiritual matters affect us for eternity. That is why the Hebrew writer was alarmed at those who had not learned how to make good decisions in spiritual matters. In **Heb. 5:12-14** he makes the following points:

These brethren had not grown from levels of immaturity to maturity and needed spiritual milk instead of meat.

They were infants spiritually and not accustomed to the word of righteousness.

The result was their senses were not trained to discern good and evil.

Because these brethren had not grown by feeding themselves spiritually by a study of the word of righteousness they were incompetent when it came to discerning good from evil.

The obvious implication of this text is that the word of righteousness comes from the Righteous One. We go to the source to learn good from evil. The source of good is He Who is righteous. He has revealed His righteousness to us in His Word as men were guided by the Holy Spirit He sent to them.

Brethren, this is basic. We are so proud of young people who make sound career decisions and yet those are the LEAST important. How are we preparing them to make the MOST important decisions in life? The choices between good and evil. Drawing near to God to have Him near them. Submitting to God and resisting the devil to see him flee from them.

Is my judgment good? My soul depends upon it!

CHRIST THE DIVIDER

"I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is accomplished! Do you suppose that I came to grant peace on earth? I tell you, no, but rather division; for from now on five members in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law" (Luke 12:49-53 NASV).

It is impossible to remain neutral about Jesus—about who He is and what He demands of all who decide to follow Him. Jesus is not simply one way among many; He is **the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)**. His way is narrow and hard. His way places His followers in opposition to those who find His call to be difficult and repulsive. If you decide to follow Jesus you might encounter alienation, turmoil, and even hatred. Sadly, you might find your own family turning from you and your newfound faith. Yet, we shouldn't be surprised; Jesus came to bring division.

Luke refers to Jesus' "mission statement" with the words *"I have come to"* Jesus came to do many things. For example, He came to bring the fire of judgment, a recurring theme in Luke's gospel. *"Indeed, the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; so, every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire" (3:9)*. Judgment had already begun. Jesus' baptism points to His own death on the cross. He is distressed about the cross; it was for this purpose that He came into the world. He was ready to accomplish the Father's will that would bring salvation to all mankind. Jesus was rejected and persecuted; He was accursed by hanging on a tree (**Acts 5:30**). In dying, Jesus bore the judgment of sin for the world.

Anyone who decided to follow Jesus to the cross, needed to know that they could be opposed by their loved ones. This was serious, especially in a culture of family relationships, clans, ancestries, and social ties. No one wanted to be separated from their family. In fact, first century families were extended families; lots of relatives lived together because of hard economic necessity. Jesus said this would happen; don't be surprised; this goes with the territory of following Him. *"For son treats father contemptuously, daughter rises up against her mother, daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man's enemies are the men of his own household" (Micah 7:6)*. Who is in the household of

Jesus? Those who do His will.

Jesus said to "read" the signs of the times (**Luke 12:54**). His challenge, even now, is to discern correctly, evaluate honestly, and probe deeply concerning the kingdom—a kingdom that is not of this world. Count the cost before you jump in headfirst. How many do not count the cost? How many were infused with initial fervor, only to soon let the fire go out? Remember that our own culture increasingly challenges the very notion of absolute truth, a standard of morality that applies to all, and resists the temerity of saying that someone is wrong. Take a stand for truth and for Jesus and you will be divided from most. Your loved ones may be standing against you. True peace is possible; but it comes with a price. Are we willing to pay that price? Jesus was.

Randy Harshbarger

"THE INCREASE OF THE VINEYARD WILL BECOME DEFILED"!

Moses instructed the physical descendants of Abraham in **Deuteronomy 22:9**, *"You shall not sow your vineyard with two kinds of seed..."*

The reason?

"...or all the produce of the seed which you have sown and the increase of the vineyard will become defiled."

Abraham's spiritual descendants (**Romans 9:7-8**), are those who have been born anew (**John 3:3, 5**); they make up Christ's church (**Galatians 3:26-27**). Spiritual Israel was given the same advice as physical Israel in regard to sowing two kinds of seed. There is truth and there is error. If both are sown (mixed together), the increase of the vineyard will become defiled. The seed is the word of God (**Luke 8:11**). If it is mixed with "doctrines and commandments of men" (**Matthew 15:8-9**), the increase of the vineyard will become defiled. This points to teaching. There is truth from God (scripture); and then there are "interpretations" of what God "meant" by what HE said in HIS word (scripture).

If ONLY God's word had been taught as declared by Jesus to His apostles, there would be only the church that Jesus built, in existence (**Matthew 16:18**). All would be members of THAT church; we would all be preached the same thing on the subject of "WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED". We would all be called by the same name ~ Christians, for only the church that is OF Christ would exist. Our worship would be alike; we would (and could) support one another in evangelistic efforts; in benevolence, and in edification for we would

all be walking "by the same rule" (**Philippians 3:16**).

This is the unity for which Jesus prayed among all who believe in Him. Please read **John 17:20-21**. Is this possible, you ask? Well it DID exist initially...for early Christians "*continued stedfastly*" in the same doctrine...the doctrine taught by the apostles (**Acts 2:42**) What happened? Please read the warning from the apostle Paul in **Acts 20:28-30**.

If you read this text, you will understand why there are the divisions in the religious realm today. So sad...Christ did NOT die for us to be segregated into separate bodies. He died to UNITE us into ONE body...HIS church. **Ephesians 4:4** - speaks of ONE BODY, just as there is ONE GOD, ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE SPIRIT... ONE!
UNITY!
LOVING AS BRETHREN!
A FAMILY!

Never forget the warning from the apostle Paul to the pastors of the church of Christ in Ephesus: "*Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.*" ~ **Acts 20:28-30**

Christ's church has been severed by corrupt seed (false doctrine). The result is, "*the increase of the vineyard*" HAS "*become defiled.*"

Is there a cure; a remedy to religious division? Certainly! Teach (speak) the same things as did the apostles. That was what they urged:

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all SPEAK THE SAME THING, and that there BE NO DIVISIONS AMONG YOU; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." ~ **1 Corinthians 1:10**

"Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing." ~ **Philippians 3:16**

Jesus prayed for this; shall we pursue His prayer?
**Taken from Rightly Dividing God's Word
by Roger Bruner**

If I've Told You Once...

We've heard this line before: "If I've told you once I've told you a thousand times!" We hear it from parents, teachers, friends, and of course, preachers. Repetition

is part of teaching. Peter the Apostle knew that. He says in **2 Peter 1 12-15** and again in **3:1** that he was going to remind them of things he knew they already knew so they wouldn't forget them. See also **Jude 5**. With this in mind let's return to the subject of obedience.

We hear many denominational preachers say frequently, "Faith is the important thing! All you've got to do is have faith!" They then get irritated when faithful and good men (in many churches) point out that the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit who inspired the book of Romans, said over in **James 2:24**, "*You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.*" The inspired author of Hebrews wrote also, "*And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief.*" (**Hebrews 3:17-19**) In saying this he (the Holy Spirit) essentially equated unbelief and disobedience. Thus He also equated belief and obedience! That pretty much seals the deal, doesn't it, concerning the question of whether or not obedience is necessary to become and remain a faithful Christian? I mean, seriously, what more would God have to say that He hasn't said in order to get across the necessity of obedience?

Now, obviously, the Holy Spirit did not think that obedience added ANYTHING to the sacrifice of Christ, did He?

Cleveland Reddinger

We sometimes criticize others unfairly. We don't know all their circumstances, nor their motives. Only God, who is aware of all the facts, is able to judge people righteously. John Wesley told of a man he had little respect for because he considered him to be miserly and covetous. One day when this person contributed only a small gift to a worthy charity, Wesley openly criticized him. After the incident, the man went to Wesley privately and told him he had been living on parsnips and water for several weeks. He explained that before his conversion, he had run up many bills. Now, by skimping on everything and buying nothing for himself he was paying off his creditors one by one. "Christ has made me an honest man," he said, "and so with all these debts to pay, I can give only a few offerings above my tithe. I must settle up with my worldly neighbors and show them what the grace of God can do in the heart of a man who was once dishonest." Wesley then apologized to the man and asked his forgiveness.

Daily Bread, July 20, 1992.

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

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Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

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SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - BOOK OF
DANIEL - BILL MILLER

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS - BOOK
OF MARK - JIM STAUFFER (BOTH
CLASSES OFFERED ON ZOOM)

SUNDAY MORNING SERMON
(YOUTUBE ALSO)

THY WILL NOT MINE BE DONE



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10