

# Gospel Power



*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)*

Volume VIII

July 29, 2001

No. 29

## Are We To Judge One Another?

Clark Dugger

*"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured unto you. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me cast out the mote out of thine eye; and lo, the beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, cast out first the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Matthew 7:1-5).*

It's not uncommon for one to hear this passage (or a portion of it) quoted when an attempt is made to restore a brother overtaken in sin. Such a quotation is misused to justify one's sin by implying that since no one is perfect, no one has the right to express an opinion about the conduct of anyone else. This claim is a gross misconception and perversion of this passage. Jesus has dealt in the first part of this mountain sermon with the hypocrisy among the Pharisees. He now contrasts the judgments they passed on others with their own self-righteous estimation of themselves.

### **"Judge not that ye be not judged."**

Jesus is not prohibiting the judgment of other men in the sense of discernment, or the use of our critical faculties. Such would render

the commandment of verse six to not "cast your pearls before swine" an impossibility. How could we "Beware of false prophets" (v. 15) if we could not judge men so? What Jesus says has nothing to do with redemptive warnings, issued in love, about the sinfulness of certain attitudes and actions and the consequences of such continued practice. In fact, Paul commands the spiritual to restore the brother overtaken by sin (Galatians 6:1, 2). And James says we are to convert the brother that errs from the truth (James 5:19, 20).

What Jesus does is prohibit harsh, unmerciful judgment and the attempt to play God. "Be ye merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36). No judgment is to be made on the basis of discrimination. All judgment is to be "righteous judgment" (John 7:24). We need to remember that what seems to be right by appearance may be, in reality, a misconception. Things are not always as they appear. To be sure we must not judge by our standard, but by the righteous standard of God.

### **"With what judgment you judge..."**

We need to judge others as those who are ourselves to be judged. If we refuse mercy to our brother, we will receive no mercy from our Father. The fact is, we are all subjects of

judgment by the same criterion. The same yardstick will be used by God in the appraisal of all men – the Word of the Lord. Man does not have the authority to make the sentence or pass it.

There is a sense in which Jesus is pointing out that we can expect the same kind of judgment from others that we have dished out ourselves. Notice the parallel passage in Luke 6:37-38: “And judge not, and ye shall not be judged: and condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned...For with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again.” Certainly God will judge us in the end. But people are judging us right now, and we receive from them exactly what we give. We reap what we have sown.

#### **“Why beholdest thou the mote...”**

Jesus describes the way of the hypocrite, the disposition to take a harsh view of others and a charitable view of ourselves. How easy it is to see the sin of others. How difficult it is to perceive our own! The Pharisees judged and criticized others to make themselves look good (Luke 18:9-12). But the Christian should be judging himself so he can help his brother look good. Jesus shows the purpose of self-judgment is to prepare us to serve others. Those who do not judge themselves hurt not only themselves, but those to whom they could have ministered.

We are to look first at ourselves. Jesus’ illustration is somewhat ridiculous (maybe even comical) – a man trying to see a speck of dust in the eye of his brother while he has a two-by-four stuck in his own eye. But it clearly shows if we do not deal with our own sins we cannot see clearly to help anyone else with their sin. The Pharisees saw the sins of other people, but they would not see their own sins.

Our business is redemption, not condemnation. Jesus is not condemning all judgment of other men. He is warning against judging others with bias and prejudice while ignoring our own shortcomings. We must constantly judge ourselves. “Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith; prove your own selves” (2 Corinthians

13:5). Such self examination will enable us to help our brother overcome his sin. But our judgment of him is not to criticize and destroy; it is to help him go to heaven.

~via *The Proclaimer*, Tyler, Texas.



## **Today Is Yours**

**W. Frank Walton**

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry ourselves sick about. These two days should be kept free from fear and apprehension. They shouldn’t hang over us like a pall, weighing us down with gloom and doom.

#### **Yesterday and Tomorrow**

One of these days is “yesterday.” Paul, who had been the archenemy of the church, said, we ought to follow his example of “forgetting those things that are behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead” (Philippians 3:13; cf. 3:17). We must put yesterday in perspective, learn from it and move on. We must put behind us all its mistakes and cares, faults and blunders, its aches and pains. Yesterday has passed forever beyond our control. Don’t drag yesterday around with you in the backpack of regret. All the money in the world cannot bring back yesterday. We cannot undo a single act we have performed. We cannot erase a single word we have said. Yesterday is gone forever.

Another day that we should not worry ourselves sick about is tomorrow. Jesus’ ancient wisdom still applies: “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things” (Matthew 6:34). Yes, the Bible commends, both by precept and example, responsible, prudent foresight and planning (Mark 1:38f; Luke 13:32f; Proverbs 20:18, 21:5; 2 Corinthians 12:14). Yet, we should fret ourselves into a frazzle over tomorrows possible adversaries, its burdens, its draining demands

and possible failures. Often, it's much ado over nothing. Also, tomorrow is ultimately beyond our immediate control. James advises, "You do not know what will happen tomorrow" (James 4:14). Someone said, "Tomorrow's sun will rise, either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds – but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in tomorrow...yet. It is still unborn."

### **Today: Living One Day at A Time**

This leaves only one day that we should mostly concern ourselves with — today. Between the innumerable yesterdays past and the unknown number of future tomorrows lies in our grasp one and only one **today**. "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts" (Hebrews 3:15). Just as we breathe one breath at a time and take one step at a time and can do one thing at time, we can only live one day at a time. It is only when you and I add the burdens of these two awful eternities — yesterday and tomorrow — that we worry ourselves to death and break down.

Today, we must keep our priorities in focus. "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). When God is a priority today, we can rest in the promise that God will help supply our needs for today. It is not right to get worked up over things lying dimly at a distance. Each one of us can do what needs to be done that is immediately at hand. "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Let us therefore, live just one day at a time. Any man can fight the battles that need to be fought of just one day. Our task is not to become overwrought at the things out of our control. Jesus asks, "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?" (Matthew 6:27).

We can cope with our daily challenges when we see their ultimate benefit to our spiritual development. The prophet James advises, "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when

you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4). Today's trials give us a daily opportunity to exercise our faith muscles. James Buckham observed: "Trials, temptations, disappointments — all these are helps instead of hindrances, if one uses them rightly. They not only test the fiber of a character, but strengthen it. Every conquered temptation represents a new fund of moral energy. Every trial endured and weathered in the right spirit makes a soul nobler and stronger than it was before."

~via *Silver Street Bulletin*, New Albany, Indiana.



## **He Pleased God**

**Billy Norris**

*"By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, and was not found, because God had taken him; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:5-6).*

Because of his faith Enoch pleased God, did not see death, could come to God and walk with Him (Genesis 5:22). This means Enoch was in agreement with God. "Can two walk together, unless they are agreed? (Amos 3:3).

The source of faith is the word of God. "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Those who want to please God will study it daily, diligently, and discerningly (2 Timothy 2:15).

Without faith that show itself in obedience people cannot please God, nor come to Him. What then is their destiny? "These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power" (2 Thessalonians 1:9).

~via *Gospel Guide*; Vol. 32 No. 39

# News & Notes

**THE SICK:** *Mary Best* is now at home after being hospitalized on Wednesday of this past week in Lawrenceburg... *Hoyt Hammond* received a good report from the visit to the doctor at Vanderbilt on Wednesday... *Phil Pressnell* is not feeling since returning from vacation with kidney stones... *Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunter,* is to have surgery this morning after falling and suffering a broken hip ... *Arvel Newton's nephew, Chester Newton,* is at home sick battling cancer ... *Angie McCrary's aunt, Irma Newton,* is not doing well at all in the nursing home... Remember *Millinea Word* as she continues her chemo treatments... *Wanda Tucker's father, Billy Letson,* who is continuing to take medication for his Leukemia ... *Helen Trousdale neice, Martha Henson,* who is battling cancer ... *Sandra Glass' cousin, Tina Strickland,* who is continuing her treatments for her cancer ... *Mattie Blanche Word* continues at home and not able to be out... *Aldeen Noles* who is not able to be out ... *Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson,* who is at home ... *Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty,* who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

**SYMPATHY:** We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Jamie McConnell* in the passing of her great-grandmother, *Nettie Morrison,* this week. Her funeral was Friday in Athens... Also, we want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Eric & Tika White* in the passing of Eric's aunt, *Eunice White,* this past week. Her funeral was also on Friday.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Gooch Lane church* in Madison is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with services at 7:30 p.m. *Dempsey Collins* will be preaching... The *Elgin Hills church* in Elgin is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Friday with *Bill Hall* preaching. They will have a service today at 4:00 and Monday through Friday services will begin at 7:00 p.m.

# Gospel Power

is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Bible Classes ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship ..... 10:45 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.

### Wednesday

Bible Classes ..... 7:00 p.m.

## Anderson church Home Page

Anderson-church.org

### Elders

Michael Clemmons .... (256) 247-0836  
Scottie Goode ..... (931) 565-3391

### Deacons

Phil Pressnell ..... (256) 232-8509  
Rocky Rose ..... (256) 247-0011  
Larry White ..... (256) 247-0988

### Evangelist & Editor

David A. Cox ..... (256) 247-1049  
Office-(256) 247-5539  
E-mail address: dacox@hiwaay.net

U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Bulk Rate  
Anderson, Alabama  
Non-Profit  
Permit #6

Anderson church of Christ  
P.O. Box 66  
Anderson, Alabama 35610

Return Service Requested