



# The Voice of Truth



August 12, 2012

## "Is Judging Wrong?"

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Many in the religious world convey the idea that judging is wrong, and that no one has the right to **JUDGE** but God. The favorite verses used are **Matthew 7:1-2**, which read: "Judge not, that ye be not judged, for with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged ..." The other verse is found in **John 8:7**, which reads: ". . . He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." These two verses are used to impart the idea that judging is wrong. But notice what John says, "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment," (**John 7:24**). We are faced with a dilemma. **IS JUDGING WRONG OR RIGHT?**

A careful study of the Bible on this subject will be that God has delegated the judgment of certain matters to men. **Matthew 7:1-2** are similar to the words of James in **James 4:11-12**. Is it possible to go through life without making judgments? If we deal with others do we not have to decide something of their character? In fact, is not James himself guilty of this very thing which he prohibits? In this section of the book he uses such expressions as "Ye lust ... ye kill . . . and covet . . ." (**James 4:2**), "adulteresses" (**James 4:4**), "ye sinners ... ye double minded" (**James 4:8**). James was not prohibiting the moral appraisal which is necessary in human relationships. He is concerned with hypercritical, self-righteous, loveless judgment. This passage in **James**, as well as **Matthew 7**, does not forbid all kinds of judging.

God has delegated the judgment of certain matters to men. The New Testament gives authority to saints to judge in Christian matters (**Read 1 Corinthians 5:12-13; 6:2-4**). Jesus does not forbid the judgment of the church upon disorderly members (**2 Thessalonians 3:6**). Individual judgments we must make of wrongdoers and evil people (**Titus 3:10-11**). We judge those who teach false doctrine (**1 John 4:1**). God has delegated the judgment of certain matters to men.

Let us remember that judgment is always according to a standard. Moses and the judges of Israel were warned,

*"Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty; but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbor,"* (**Leviticus 19:15**). "Thus hath Jehovah of hosts spoken, saying, Execute true judgment," (**Zechariah 7:9**). The standard for Christians today is "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment," (**John 7:24**). The standard of righteous is the commandments of God (**Psalms 119:172**). Paul, in **Romans 1:16-17**, points out that in the gospel is the righteousness of God revealed, and it will be used at the final judgment (**John 12:48**).

Jesus stated, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned," (**Mark 16:16**). If one has not believed and has not been baptized, a judgment is made upon him, the person is lost. I have the right to look in God's word and judge this to be so. I can say if you are not in the **ONE BODY, THE CHURCH** in which Christ is the Saviour (**Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4; 5:23**), you are lost! That is what the Word of God teaches. Jesus has not promised to save any religious body other than His church!

Sadly, a dangerous attitude toward judging has developed. An attitude has developed within the church which denies that one may judge anything. What are they saying? How can we know who will be saved? How does anyone know that God won't save one who has not been baptized? We can know that not all men will be saved (**read Matthew 7:13-14**), although Christ died for all men (**Hebrews 2:9**). We know that the unbeliever cannot be saved since it is impossible for him to please God (**Hebrews 11:6**), and Jesus (**John 8:24**). We can know that all those outside of Christ are separate from Christ (**Ephesians 2:12**). We can know that those who ". . . know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus shall suffer punishment . . ." (**2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**). We can know that baptism is the avenue into Christ

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where salvation is found (**Galatians 3:27; 2 Timothy 2:10**). Therefore, God has drawn a line, that we recognize the fact that those in that condition are lost!

So, in answering the question, "**IS JUDGING WRONG?**"; we conclude, **NO!** We judge only in the areas authorized by God. ♦

## "Dost Thou Steal?"

By Jarrod Jacobs

In **Romans 2:21-22**, the apostle Paul warned the Roman Christians about the dangers of hypocrisy. He noted some tell-tale signs of hypocrisy when he wrote, "*Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?*" It is a careful student, and thus a careful teacher, who recognizes the fact that he cannot teach a person one thing and then practice something different! To do so breeds hypocrisy and results in the loss of good influence upon Christians and non-Christians. Yet, hypocrisy is an easy trap in which to fall! Many have played the hypocrite, while denying this reality. When spending time in self-examination, are we acting as hypocrites? Let us study and see.

### The Word "Hypocrite"

The word "hypocrite" as used in the Old Testament means: "one defiled in mind and conscience, yet concealing it, and pretending to be outwardly what he is not inwardly; to have zeal and affection towards God, when his heart is far from him" (Wilson's O.T. Word Studies, p. 224). W.E. Vine translates "hypocrite" in this way: "primarily one who answers, then a stage-actor; hence the word became used metaphorically as a dissembler, a hypocrite" (Vine's, p. 582). In other words, one who says one thing and does another, a pretender.

### Pretend To Be Someone You Are Not

Sadly, there are those who are "Christians in name only". In other words, they are hypocrites. While they pretend to be Christians, they are actually children of the Devil, not unlike the Jews in **John 8:44**.

The Old Testament records occasions where people literally pretended to be someone else. For example, in **Genesis 27:1-46**, we read of Jacob deceiving his father. That day, Jacob received the blessing that belonged to Esau. How was this accomplished? He dressed and acted like his brother (**Gen. 27:18-30**). This is literally what it means to be a hypocrite. Yet, we do not have to dress as

someone else to be a hypocrite!

In the New Testament, we read the account of "Christians" pretending to be unselfish givers, when in truth, they were selfish. This is found in **Acts 5:1-11**. Ananias and Sapphira pretended to give all the money gained from selling a possession (**v. 1**). In truth, they kept back part (**v. 2**), and were found to be liars (**v. 4-5**). **Acts 5** shows us that hypocrisy is a vulgar thing that needs to be avoided at all costs.

The hypocrite has always been presented in a negative light throughout the Bible. On 15 separate occasions, Jesus rebuked the people listening, calling them "hypocrites." After reading these definitions, does this sound like you? Are you pretending to be a Christian? Are you an actor?

### Teach One Thing And Do Another

Many today have an attitude that is often expressed as: "do as I say, and not as I do." My friend, this will not work. This concept was what the apostle Paul was fighting against in **Romans 2**. How sad it is to see the transparent efforts of some to teach others the way of God while they themselves act as the Devil!

The Pharisees were known for teaching one thing, and doing another. In **Matthew 23:1-12**, Jesus told the multitude and the disciples not to act like the Pharisees, "*For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men...*" (**Matt. 23:4-5**). If you are like this, rest assured, people can see through you. You are fooling no one!

### Conclusion

*"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"* (**II Cor. 13:5**). It is up to all of us to keep away from hypocrisy, and

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make sure it is not in our lives. Are you a pretender? Do you teach others that "*now is the day of salvation*" (II Cor. 6:2), but live like there is no tomorrow? Do not be a hypo-

crite! Live for Christ! Who knows what good we can do in the Lord's kingdom when we live that sincere, genuine life, that reflects Christ in all we do (Gal. 2:20)!

*Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦*

## One Church By Mike Thomas

There are literally hundreds of churches in the world, maybe even thousands, each with a peculiar slant on salvation, worship, the godhead, eternal life, and other important doctrines. What hope does a person have of finding the true church of the Lord?

Immediately, some would say that all churches belong to God and that He is the Father of them all. The only problem with that idea is that it is contrary to Bible teaching. God does not receive all religions, nor does He respect all who claim to love and follow Him.

Consider what Jesus taught while He was on earth—*"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven"* (Matthew 7:21).

Notice He didn't say this to people who had no interest in living for God. The people He was referring to were those who "*cast out demons, and performed many wonders*" in His name (Matthew 7:22). Yet they were rejected by God for not following all of His will in love and humility. They were only righteous enough to win the approval of others.

People may claim to have a devotion to God while practicing denominational doctrines, but if they are diligent students of the Bible, and genuine seekers of truth, there is no way they can say they are obeying all of God's will. The Bible doesn't teach the modern philosophies of salvation apart from water baptism, a universal bishop, church-

sponsored recreation, the sponsoring church arrangement, divorce and remarriage apart from adultery, women preaching before men, infant baptism, instrumental music, and so on. These are not taught in the New Testament.

I am not suggesting that all who practice these things are dishonest hypocrites who have no love for the Lord. I cannot read people's minds. But what I am saying is that they are not practicing the Father's will as stated in the Bible, and they are in jeopardy of missing out on eternal life with God. Remember, Jesus said salvation is not in what we claim before men (calling Him, Lord, Lord), but in seeking and applying the will of God. This is true whether we accept it or not.

If every church would seek the pattern found in the New Testament, we would all have unity in matters of faith; that is, we'd believe alike on salvation, worship, eternal life, God, etc. The reason I know this is so, is because the Bible only teaches one faith for the Christian age (Ephesians 4:1-4). This is why God can ask and demand that we all practice the same thing in religion (1 Corinthians 1:10; Philippians 1:27). We can have unity because only one pattern for Christianity was revealed (Jude 3) — the pattern that God, Jesus, and the Spirit believe in (John 17:20-21).

**Are you honestly seeking, or are you dishonestly satisfied?** *Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦*

## Things That Impress Visitors

1. Members that day dream or sleep through sermon; talk during observance of the Lord's Supper.
2. Members that open a bottle of pop during services which makes a noise each time it opens.
3. Scribbling in and playing with the hymnals.
4. Members who whisper, talk, write notes, and pass pictures, etc. during services.
5. Members who are privileged to serve during the worship, but are so over medicated that they sound drunk.
6. Persistent late-comers who disturb and distract the worshippers.
7. Members who do not speak to visitors. ♦

*Either the Bible will keep you from sin . . .  
Or sin will keep you from the Bible.*

## The church of Christ

**Has:**

- One Builder – Jesus Christ (**Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:9-11**)
- One Purchaser – Jesus Christ (**Acts 20:28**)
- One Head – Jesus Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23**)
- One Savior – Jesus Christ (**Eph. 5:23**)
- One destiny – eternal salvation (**Eph. 5:23**)

**IS:**

- The spiritual body of Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23**)
- The kingdom of Christ (**Matt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:28**)
- The depository of those saved (**Acts 2:47**)
- One body, not many bodies (**Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23**)
- One way to be added to the church:
- One must believe that Christ is the Son of God (**Jno. 8:24**)
- One must repent of sins (**Lk. 13:3**)
- One must confess that Christ is the Son of God (**Rom. 10:9-10**)
- One must be baptized into Christ (**Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27**) ♦

### THINK ABOUT IT!

When a farmer stops plowing his land, stops planting seed, and stops harvesting his crops, he has stopped doing those things that identify him as being a farmer. When a Christian stops attending worship services regularly, stops studying, stops giving as he has been prospered, and has stopped working for the Lord, he has stopped being a Christian because he has stopped doing those things that identify him as a Christian. *"By their fruits ye shall know them," (Matthew 7:20).* ♦

**When an archer misses the mark, he turns and looks for the fault within himself. Failure to hit the bull's-eye is never the fault of the target. To improve your aim – Improve yourself.**

### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

- Hear and Learn** - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3
- Believe** - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24
- Repent** - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30
- Confess the Lord** - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Be Baptized** - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27
- Continue in the Apostles' Teaching** - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

### About the Hillcrest church of Christ

**Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew**

**How to Contact Us**

**Telephone:** (920)499-5677  
**E-mail:** hillcrestcofc@live.com



**Our Address**

1621 Hillcrest Drive  
 Green Bay, WI 54313



**Schedule of Assembly**

**Bible Study:** Sunday, 9:00am  
**Worship Service:** Sunday, 10:00am  
**Bible Study:** Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

\*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month