

## Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

June 18, 2012

Issue No. 47 Mark Aites, Editor

### Judging

"The world is full of pots jeering at kettles." – Francois de La Rochefoucauld, *Maximes*

"We judge ourselves by our motives and others by their actions." – Dwight Morrow

"God help the sheep when the wolf is judge." – Danish Proverb

"Don't mind anything that anyone tells you about anyone else. Judge everyone and everything for yourself." – Henry James

For years we have heard folks cry foul when a judgment is made concerning them. They immediately want to cite Matt. 7:1: "Judge not, that you be not judged." This passage is used without thought to the context or intent that our Lord had with this admonition. There is obviously a type of judgment that is discouraged, one that finds fault with others when the one grumbling may in fact be guilty of the same thing, if not worse.

But to arbitrarily say that all judging is wrong would put us in a bit of a predicament. Each and every day of your life you make hundreds of judgments, often without even realizing it. You rise in the morning and choose your breakfast, the clothing. When you walk you choose to go in one door and perhaps out another. You cross a street instead of staying on a sidewalk. The use of words are judgments as you make the choice of what to say. Yes, you make so many of the judgments or choices with little thought.

When it comes to people we tend to be a little harsh at times. Likely for Christians, it is because you know the word of God. You see Christians dressed like the people of the world and it upsets you. You know what God's word says about modesty, yet they choose to ignore it (1 Tim. 2:9). And if you voice your objection, you hear the familiar words, "Stop judging me," or, "that's just your opinion."

Isn't it amazing how many folks are quick to cite Matthew 7 and yet plainly ignore a clear statement made by Jesus, "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment" (John 7:24). What is this? Our Lord says that if one judges they are to do so with righteous judgment! Then the contention that all judging is wrong cannot be the case.

If you judge others by making yourself a standard, then you can well find yourself in error. But if you judge others based upon God's word, really God is the one judging them.

It is amazing how many forget the wisdom of the Psalmist, "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Psa. 119:11). When people choose to violate God's will, you can't help but to make judgments based upon the Word of the Living God. If they cherished God's Word, they would know it too!