

THE BULLETIN

THIS WEEK:

Sunday:
Bible Study & Worship
Monday:
Fl. School of Preaching Class
Wednesday:
Bible Study

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 1st:
Teen Dinner
May 10th:
Ladies Night Out
May 14th:
Pre-Teen Devo

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE:

Month of April

Announcements:
Ray Cauthen

Singing:
a.m. – John Loanzon
p.m. – Mark Nortz
Wed. –Luther Honey

Prayer:
Tommy Mikell

Bible Reading:

Preaching:
Doug Frazier

Lord's Supper:
Larry Pahman
Randy Howe
Doug Myers
Greg Green

May

Prepare communion
Angie Stokes

4th Sunday Fellowship:
Beverly Mikell
Kim Mikell
Pam Myers

Don't Judge Me! By Wayne Jackson

One of the most frequent rebukes that we receive from irate readers is this: “Oh, you are judging!” If there is one passage in the Bible with which the critics are familiar, surely it is this one: “Judge not, that you be not judged” (Mt. 7:1). They have no clue as to what the text means, but they know that it is there!

It is an unfortunate thing that those who so flaunt this passage, in such a careless fashion, have not studied the broader biblical theme diligently. The truth is, this quibble, more often than not, is a mere defense mechanism that “judges” the alleged “judge”!

The most common word for “judge” in the Greek Testament is the verb *krino*, found 114 times. It is rendered into English by a variety of terms, e.g., “judge,” “determine,” “condemn,” “call in question,” etc. The word means to “select”; then to “come to a conclusion, make a determination” — sometimes with the added idea of relating that conclusion to a specific act or a certain person. The basic term is neutral in its character; only the context can suggest either a positive or negative connotation.

That “judging” is not intrinsically evil is demonstrated by the fact that God judges (Heb. 12:23), and so does Christ (Acts 10:42; 2 Tim. 4:8). The common retort to this observation, though, is this: “Yes, God and Christ have the right to judge; but we, who are but mere mortals, do not.” While that may sound noble, it is not undergirded with scriptural evidence.

The truth of the matter is, “judging” is both condemned and commended in the Bible. It is prohibited and commanded. But how can this be, if, as Christians commonly claim, the Scriptures are inspired of God, and thus do not contradict one another? The answer is a very simple one. The concept of “judging” is employed in **different senses** in sacred literature.

Judging Condemned

There are several New Testament passages in which “judging” is cast into a sinister light. Let us consider but three of these for illustrative purposes. In the Sermon on the Mount Christ spoke thusly:

“Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged: and with what measure you use, it shall be measured unto you. And why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, Let me take the speck from your eye; when there is a log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye; and then you will see clearly how to take the speck from your brother’s eye” (Mt. 7:1-5).

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Appropriate judging must be done sincerely, and for the welfare of the individual. Obviously the individual who pronounces judgment upon another, when he is personally guilty of equal (or even greater) transgressions, is not genuine in his censures. Many of the Jews were of this hypocritical nature. While they condemned the gross wickedness of the pagans, they practiced identical breaches of fidelity (see Rom. 2:1-3).

Does this imply that one must be “sinless” before he can declare a “judgment” concerning another’s conduct? It does not. Paul was not sinless (Rom. 7:14ff; 1 Cor. 9:27; Phil. 3:12ff), yet he did not hesitate to “judge” the flagrant fornicator who was disgracing the Corinthian church (1 Cor. 5:3). The person who presumes to judge, however, must be a truly spiritual person (cf. 1 Jn. 1:7), with the good of others genuinely in view (cf. Gal. 6:1).

On another occasion, the Lord warned the Jews: “Judge not according to appearance?” (Jn. 7:24). [Note: For the fuller context of this admonition, see below.] **Superficial** judging is condemned. To judge someone, strictly on the basis of race, cultural background, unsubstantiated rumor, appearance, financial standing, etc., is wrong (cf. Lk. 10:25ff; 15:1ff; Gal. 2:11ff; Jas. 2:1ff). In his sermon at Caesarea, Peter declared that God is no “respector of persons.” The Greek term denotes an opinion formed on the basis of the “face,” i.e., appearance. The Lord does not do that (cf. 1 Sam. 16:7), and neither should we.

Finally, James cautions:

“Speak not one against another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother, or judges his brother, speaks against the law, and judges the law: but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law, but a judge. One only is the lawgiver and judge, even he who is able to save and to destroy: but who are you to judge your neighbor?” (Jas. 4:11-12).

Here the inspired writer places “judging” within the framework of harsh, wounding language. The expression “speak against” renders the Greek *katalaleo*, which means to slander, degrade, or insult. Some scholars suggest that it hints of being critical of the person in his absence (cf. William Barclay, *The Letter of James*, p. 13). Certainly there are back-stabbers who do not have the courage to confront an adversary face-to-face (unlike Paul — Gal. 2:11). The malady rebuked in this context reflects an attempt to tear down, rather than to help.

Let it be made clear. The type of judging that is condemned in the New Testament is not the righteous exposure of error or wickedness, or even the rebuke of a particular false teacher (see 1 Tim. 1:20; 2 Tim. 2:17-18). Rather, it consists of that which is done hypocritically, superficially, and in hostility.

Continued next week.....

TO OUR VISITORS

It is our sincere desire to help all men and women understand what God’s will is for their life. Here at the Alachua Church of Christ, we stand ready and willing to help you with any needs you may have. Here are just a few of the services we offer: **Marriage Counseling, Family Counseling and Addiction Counseling, free audiotapes of any lesson and In-home Bible Study.** Feel free to make your request know. Ask any member of the congregation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THERE WILL BE NO FELLOWSHIP THIS MONTH

HIGH SPRINGS CHURCH OF CHRIST: is sponsoring a Family Fun Day and Cookout at Florida Bible3 Camp on May 7th from 9am til.....For details see the brochure on the bulletin board in the back. Please RSVP

SICK AND/OR INJURED:

- Thomas Land has asked for the prayers of the congregation for his wife Kim who is having a 2nd surgery on her back.
- Please continue to remember Blu Earnhart's Uncle Bob. He is requesting our prayers. He had a heart attack and is recovering. They are monitoring now and wanting him to watch diet and exercise. However, he has bad arthritis and can't do the exercise. They are continuing to watch him closely.
- Rhonda Howe has had a very bad week this week. She has a bacterial infection and her left lung has been collapsing this past week, causing many problems for her. She is in desperate need of your prayers. Please remember Rhonda and Randy in your prayers.
- Continue to remember Jean Gause, Larry Pahman's father, Patty Earnhart, Cathryn Scruggs, Mike Elledge, Randy Adams, Shirley Rogers, Carl Lee, Sherrelle Kendrick, Randy Howe's mother, Linda Martin, Tommy Mikell, Ann Ewing, Diane Jones, Terry Dickerson (nephew of Ruth Gufford), Betty Hitchcock, Shirley Kirby, Carolyn Canady (Rhonda's Mom), James Harrison, Edward Brown.

Please keep these loved ones in your prayers. Many of those who have chronic conditions suffer from day to day. Those that are confined need not only our prayers but visits, calls, cards or letters.

TEEN DINNER: We will be having our monthly teen dinner on Sunday May 1st following our PM service. We will be eating at Sonny's in Alachua. Please make sure you bring enough money to cover your meal and a tip. Hope to see all of our teen's there.

LADIES NIGHT OUT: Our monthly LNO will be May 10th at 7:00PM. We will be meeting at Conestoga's in Alachua.

PRE-TEEN DEVOTIONAL: Out next pre-teen devotional will be on Saturday, May 14th. We will be studying self control.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE:

Hi Everyone

Today has been a crazy one. We prepared 610 meals and delivered them. The Helen St CoC had their monthly food hand out and I have been on the phone with Churches in the St Louis area that were hit by the tornadoes last night. Below is the recap of our work this week here in Fayetteville, NC.

Before I get to the recap I need you to know that to continue this Mission of Assistance and Evangelism we need your help. We Urgently Urgently need funds to keep the doors of this Mission work open.

Weekly Recap:

Sunday I left home with the mobile headquarters and headed to NC, Monday I arrived and surveyed the area with Preacher from Helen St CoC, Don Hudson arrived on Wed., Ron and Sally Keller arrived on Thursday from FL to help., Don and Ron have 16 Bible studies going on.

We have cooked and taken out to the damaged areas 2128 meals., Today (Saturday) Helen St CoC is having there monthly food handout.

We have been working with multiple churches here in the Fayetteville area.

I have posted many photos on the blog www.disasterassistancecoc.blogspot.com

Monday 4/25- 10 volunteers form the Paducah Ky area will be arriving to help with cleanup and repairs. They will be sleeping on cots inside the church fellowship hall.

As I am preparing this recap I am waiting on call backs from churches in the St Louis area that were hit by the tornadoes last night. If needed, we will head that way when things are under control here.

Please pass this information on to everyone on your email and Facebook list , Take it to your church and business, you never know who might be willing to help us. Please pray for the thousands of people whose lives have been forever changed and for us as we show the love of the Lord to them by just providing a simple meal.

Mike Baumgartner

You can donate online at: www.disasterassistancecoc.com or make check payable and mail to:

Disaster Assistance

402 Center Way St

Lake Jackson, TX 77566

“A Love Story”

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Minister:
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Meeting Times:
Sunday Morning
Bible Study: 9:30
Worship: 10:30

Sunday Evening
Worship: 5:30

Mid-Week Bible Study
Wednesday 6:30

- A. There are many great love stories that touch our hearts but there is one that is greater than all.
 - a. It is a story of the love of a Creator for His creation though His creation hurt Him in everyway.
 - b. His love for His creation was so strong that He sent His only Son to rescue the world.
- B. What God did for His creation is truly a great story of love.
- C. It consists of Gods' love, Gods' plan to save humanity and the resurrection of His only son.

1. It is a love story that consists of Gods' love.

- i. God is _____. I John 4:16, John 3:16-17
- ii. God demonstrated His love for us by sending Jesus to save us. I John 4:10-11, Romans 5:8
- iii. God sent His son to die for every wicked individual on this earth.
- iv. God did not withhold His only Son but _____ gave Him to be sacrificed. John 1:29
- v. We do not _____ the gift of Gods' precious Son.

2. It is a love story that consists of Gods' plan to save humanity.

- i. People will often spontaneously do great acts of love in response to an emergency.
- ii. Humanity was in trouble because of sin but God carefully planned what He would do in order to save humanity from sin.
- iii. Gods' plan to save man was in place even before He created the world. I Peter 1:20-21
- iv. God is _____.
- v. Isaiah said that Jesus would bear the _____ and _____ of others.
- vi. Gods' rescue plan was for His Son to _____ in the place of others.
- vii. Gods' rescue plan did not just happen it was planned and fulfilled.

3. It is a love story that consists of the resurrection of His Son.

- i. The love story would not have been complete or wonderful if Gods' Son would not have been _____.
- ii. If Jesus would have never risen from the grave we would have no hope. I Corinthians 15:14-19
- iii. We now have hope beyond the grave.

We're on the Web!
alachuachurchofchrist.org