



Mike King-Minister

BIBLE TALK

Question: What constitutes judging according to the Bible?

Answer: The accusation is often made that one is judging when an application of God's word is made. Christians have the obligation to God to preach the gospel (Mk. 16:15, 16). God will take vengeance on those who know Him not (message is to warn of the dangers and damnation of rejecting it). Teachers of truth cannot be thwarted in the execution of their

duty by yielding to, "you are not the judge!"

Christ is the judge to whom we must answer in the day of reckoning (Acts 17:30; 2 Cor. 5:10). Man can only speculate from outward appearance, but God knows the heart (Ps. 119:172). We have been instructed to judge according to righteous judgment (Jn. 7:23-25) and "*mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them*" (Rom. 16:17). In order to accomplish this, judgment must be used to identify wrong.

There is a difference between using a "sense of judgment" by a righteous standard in order to distinguish right from wrong (Phil. 1:10) and in trying to pass judgment on someone's soul (Matt. 7:1). If I were to conclude that a person cannot go to heaven being a murderer, adulterer or drunkard, judgment would not be passed by me because these are words of inspiration (I Cor. 6:9, 10). Paul encouraged the use of God's word in defining from whom they were to separate themselves (I Cor. 5:9-13). Paul introduced the word "discernment" into his teaching. The Philippians were to "*abound more and more in knowledge and discernment*" (Phil. 1:9). We are to use the Word to discern good from evil.

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