

What Must Be Will Be

by Hendrik Joubert

Those things which happen to us and are beyond our ability to control tend to be easier to deal with than those things we suffer as a result of poor choices we have made. We become victims of our circumstances and we are free of any blame. Sympathy gained is spontaneous.

There is an attraction to view every negative experience in this way as we attempt to escape taking responsibility for our actions. We find ways to blame others, or circumstances. There is a degree of fatalism in this attitude as it will ensure difficulties at some point in the future. Consequences postponed to some future date make it easy for us to avoid making those difficult, unpleasant decisions now. We will deal with the consequences when they come up – hoping that things will change in the interim so we will escape the penalty.

Dealing with our eternal salvation is a popular area for us to engage in this type of behavior. The consequences lie too far into the future for us to deal with it now. We do not plan on dying any time soon, or for the Lord to return **like a thief in the night.** (**Matthew 24:36; 1Thessalonians 5:2**)

Should we be confronted about this most serious question, society developed an effective strategy for us to escape. *Useful* slogans are numerous, but few are as popular as “*Who are you to judge?*” or “**Do not judge so that you will not be judged.**” (**Matthew 7:1**) The latter is a wonderful slogan to use in order to avoid making those changes right now, and feel good about it. Many do not know where to find these words uttered by the Lord to check its validity as applied to their situation. That the Lord speaks boldly of the **narrow way** which **few will find** not many sentences later (**7:13-14**), and that many who are convinced that they are saved will learn too late that their worship is rejected, (**7:21-23**) will never be noticed.

The implication is that we all *equally* are in serious trouble as a result of our sin. (**Romans 3:23**) There is no point in arguing according to our frivolous and ever changing standards where we measure others with different standards than we do ourselves. Yet, all we want to know is that **you** should not judge **me**, as we forget the judgment of the Lord: **Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'** (**Matthew 7:22-23**)

The idea of a deception is simply arrogant as no one should be as egotistical as to claim to know it all. *What is truth? Your truth does not have to be my truth.* The only ones benefitting from this attitude are the false prophets, teachers and apostles we are warned against: **Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.** (**1John 4:1**)

In the Bible the Lord provided us with the standard for **righteous judgment.** (**John 7:24**) It is this standard that is to be used for **reproving** and **rebuking**, and not our own human standards. (**2Timothy 3:16-17**) This reproving and rebuking is to be done by preaching the word when people are ready for it, but also when they are not ready for it: **Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all**

longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (2Timothy 4:2-4)

We should treat our eternal salvation with the serious attention it deserves. In the light of what Jesus says in **Matthew 7:1-23** we should not judge ourselves saved without making sure that we judge according to the standard supplied by God, thereby demonstrating faith in Him and in His Son. We should not merely call Him Lord, Lord, we should do what He says. (**Luke 6:46**)