

## Do Not Judge So That You Will Not Be Judged.

By Hendrik Joubert

From the time we wake up we pass insignificant judgments (make decisions) without much consequence for self or others. What cereal to eat, or whether to eat breakfast at all. What would be appropriate to wear considering our day. There are also more significant judgments we make in *real-time*; before we had the opportunity to make sure that they are the best. The more important the decision, the more time we want to take before passing judgment.

There also are issues as well as things we are prejudice toward – for, or against. We will choose things above equally good options for reasons of our own, such as buying a Ford or a Chevrolet. Fans on either side will explain in detail why their decision is the better one.

Prejudice also has a definite negative connotation. A simple definition of such prejudice is to judge, or to reach a conclusion before all the facts (information) has been considered – to pre-judge. Such prejudice implies a willfulness and ill will towards someone or something. In such cases one believes what you want to believe, selecting the information to be used and ignoring that which demands a change of opinion.

When Satan tempted Jesus he (ab)used Scripture. Jesus reminded him of additional information provided in the Scriptures for a proper understanding. In his prejudice Satan emphasized certain passages at the expense of others. Satan's speech and conduct seems a classical illustration of what it means to patronize; to talk down to someone in an effort to make him or her do what you want them to do.

In 26 of the 27 books of the New Testament we find warnings against false teachers, preachers, doctrines, apostles, prophets and even Christs. False teachers do not deny Jesus openly; they do it in a *loving* way making you look and feel badly for opposing them: ***For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.*** <sup>14</sup> ***No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.*** **2 Corinthians 11:13-14.**

Consider the following test. Make a list of things you consider to be ***doctrines of demons***, taught by those who, because of *hypocrisy seared their conscience as with a branding iron and fell away from the faith*. Please take a pen and make your list before reading on... I am sure that many recognized the words in italics as some of the opening words to the **fourth** chapter of Paul's **first** letter to **Timothy**. He continues to specify the doctrines of demons...***Men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth.*** **1 Timothy 4:3.**

How did your *personal judgment* compare with that supplied through the word of God? Do you know some who teach that certain men cannot marry, such as priests and female servants of *the Church*? Do you know some who teach that *Christians* should not eat certain meats or other food? Do you consider them hypocrites who numbed their conscience to accept these things and fall away from ***the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints?*** **Jude 3.** Are those who teach doctrines of demons lost?

Christians are called upon to pass judgments, and should be ready to face the consequences. God supplied the world with the complete source of truth: ***All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;*** <sup>17</sup> ***so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*** **2 Timothy 3:16-17.** There is no excuse for ignorance.

Many are simply not able to comprehend that faith in God is total reliance upon His revelation. When I make the statement "I believe..." I should be able to supply the Scriptures which so teaches as ***faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*** **Romans 10:17.** The word of God should be the only source which determines what is right and what is wrong - ***"Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."*** **John 7:24.**

Many judge others based upon how they *feel* about things, the very form of judgment condemned in **Matthew 7:1-5.** Saying that one is saved is passing judgment, just as saying someone is lost – Let us make sure it is the Lord's standard we use so we may not hear the following words from the loving, gracious Lord Jesus who died for the sins of the world: ***"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.*** <sup>22</sup> ***"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'*** <sup>23</sup> ***"And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'*** **Matthew 7:21-23**