

Judge Righteous Judgment

September 2, 2018 Gabriel Taylor

People often like to quote various Scriptures from the Bible in an effort to deter what they believe is judging. It is, perhaps, one of the most misunderstood doctrines in the Bible. Did Jesus tell us we can't judge at all? Didn't He say, "**by their fruits you will know them?**"



“Don’t Judge Me Bro!!”

Matthew 7:1 is probably one of the most misunderstood verses on this subject, and one of the most taken out of context Scriptures in the Bible. Let’s look at the verse and its context.

"Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." — (Matthew 7:1-5.)

If we take just this passage just at a glance, one might be able to make the case of the popular judgment belief. But let's dig in further. According to **Strong's Concordance**, the word for judge means, "to try, condemn, punish, to damn, decree, sentence to..."

This is talking about condemning someone to hell for their course of action. And of course, no one but God has the right to do that. As humans, we cannot judge motive. In addition, this passage has a very important point. We cannot condemn others for their sin while we ourselves are indulging in some sin.

This type of judgment comes from legalism. When we try to earn Heaven by our own works, when we have our own standard to live to get to Heaven by instead of God's, it leads to condemning others who do not live up to our own ideas. This is what Jesus was talking about here. Ellen G. White talks about this in *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, page 123.

We could use the example of the Pharisees. They did not want righteousness by faith. They wanted to earn Heaven. They also did not want to experience what their ancestors did by being slaves to the Babylonians as punishment for their idolatry. So they came up with multitudinous rules and regulations to avoid this.

The Spirit of Prophecy says it this way:

"The people partook largely of the same spirit, intruding upon the province of conscience and judging one another in matters that lay between the soul and God. It was in reference to this spirit and practice that Jesus said, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." That is, do not set yourself up as a standard. Do not make your opinions, your views of duty, your interpretations of Scripture, a criterion for others and in your heart condemn them if they do not come up to your ideal. Do not criticize others, conjecturing as to their motives and passing judgment upon them." — (*Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, p. 123.)

When we see someone else err, we are not to judge them or condemn them. We are to go to them and speak with them as Jesus would. These souls must know He loves

them. However, even here, people think that we cannot address sin. But even Jesus told people after He healed them to avoid those sins that got them into those diseases.

Those who condemn others to hell for their sins are guilty of sins that are just as bad, if not worse. Humans tend to tear others down when they want to feel better about their own sinful course of action. Think politics.

This judgmental spirit also leads to trying to force others to conform to our ideas. Consider this quote:

When men indulge this accusing spirit, they are not satisfied with pointing out what they supposed to be a defect in their brother. If milder means fail of making him do what they think ought to be done, they will resort to compulsion. Just as far as lies in their power they will force men to comply with their ideas of what is right. This is what the Jews did in the days of Christ and what the church has done ever since whenever she has lost the grace of Christ. Finding herself destitute of the power of love, she has reached out for the strong arm of the state to enforce her dogmas and execute her decrees. Here is the secret of all religious laws that have ever been enacted, and the secret of all persecution from the days of Abel to our own time. — (Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 126.)

So how is this passage in Matthew 7:1-5 taken out of context? Often, people cry foul whenever sin is trying to be dealt with. True, we must not condemn. But sin in the church must be dealt with. Yet even when this is done in a loving way, many like to accuse the reformer of being judgmental.

For example, I posted something online recently about living healthy. I added a comment about how my mom ate poorly and then took medical drugs to try and heal from the resulting disease. She lost that battle with disease August 29, 2016. We are counseled in the Spirit of Prophecy that those who do this will not be healed by God. Someone commented on there, “Judge not.”

Even when just observing what happened, when it is too clear to misunderstand, people like to pull the “*don’t judge*” card. But this is not what Jesus was talking about. Jesus said don’t condemn. Merely observing is not condemning.

The Bible tells us in Ezekiel 9 that only those who sigh and cry for the abominations done in the church will be sealed. However, doing this is also decried as being judgmental. Whenever pet sins and popular sins are spoken against, and reform is called for, many like to pull the “**don’t judge**” card.

One popular pet sin of the church these days is indulgence of appetite. Yet when this is spoken against, those who refuse to give up meat and dairy like to make excuses and accuse the speakers of being judgmental, even sometimes slandering their character.

It is not being judgmental to deal with sin in the church. Jesus dealt with sin in Israel all through their history, including during His Messianic ministry 2,000 years ago. It is only those who refuse to give up their sins that accuse the messenger of being judgmental.

Consider this quote:

"Paul did many things. He was a wise teacher. His many letters are full of instructive lessons setting forth correct principles. He worked with his hands, for he was a tent-maker, and in this way earned his daily bread.... He carried a heavy burden for the churches. He strove most earnestly to present their errors before them, that they might correct them, and not be deceived and led away from God. He was always seeking to help them in their difficulties; and yet he declares, “One thing I do.” ... The responsibilities of his life were many, yet he kept always before him this “one thing.” The constant sense of the presence of God constrained him to keep his eye ever looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of his faith.” — (Our Father Cares, p. 195.)

Notice that the apostle Paul sought to correct errors in the churches he ministered to. There very well may have been some there who accused him of sinful judging as there are many today who do the same.

“Mark this point with care: Those who receive the pure mark of truth, wrought in them by the power of the Holy Ghost, represented by a mark by the man in linen, are those “that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done” in the church.

“The class who do not feel grieved over their own spiritual declension, nor mourn over the sins of others, will be left without the seal of God....” — (Maranatha, p. 240.)

The apostle John recorded another instance of Jesus speaking of judgment. We find it in John 7. Let's take a look.

“If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day? Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.” — (John 7:23-24.)

The context here is that Jesus was teaching in the temple. He was probably reading their hearts because just a few verses prior in verse 19, Jesus asks certain people why they are trying to kill Him. When we look at the greater context of the Gospels, the Jewish leaders were constantly trying to devise some way to kill Jesus.

Reasons for this include that the leaders saw Jesus as a threat to their authority. Another reason is their pretended jealousy for God's Law. When Jesus healed on the Sabbath, they wanted to kill Him. This is likely why Jesus said, “judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.”

Indeed, many of us go by appearance only when judging others or the situation. We don't realize what someone's motive might be, or that they might be a new church member and they may not know a particular piece of truth yet. **These must be dealt with in love.**

When will the church wake up to her duties?

Gabriel Taylor

Facts of Faith Website has posted this excellent article By Gabriel Taylor.

I would like to add from God's Holy Writ about that we can judge The Fruits of others.

End-time Present Truth with the Bible. Scripture to rebuke the “Don’t Judge Me”

If we are a True Watchman, we will in love, desire and protect and show the dangerous paths of a brother or sister. For in Unity, we never compromise truth with error. Friends, its like being a “little pregnant”. Either you are pregnant or your not....

1. Ephesians 5:9-11. “For the fruit of the Spirit [is] in all goodness and righteousness and truth; (10) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. (11) And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove [them].”
2. Proverbs 13:13. “Whoso despiseth the word **shall be destroyed**: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.”
3. Proverbs 30:5, 6. “Every word of God [is] pure: he [is] a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and **thou be found a liar.**”
4. Galatians 1:8 “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed.**”
5. Isaiah 8:20 “**To the law and to the testimony**: if they speak not according to this word, [it is] because [there is] **no light in them.**”
6. II Peter 2:1 “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. (2) And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. (3) And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.”

What has God called us to do?

7. “Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, **and to** the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith **the** Lord; Behold I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.” Jeremiah 18:11 “Stand in the court of the Lord’s house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the Lord’s house, all the words that I command thee to speak **unto them**; diminish not a word. If so be they will hearken, and turn every man from his evil way...” Jeremiah 26:2

Show my people their sins

8. “Cry Aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgressions, and the house of Jacob their sins.” Isaiah 58:1 “Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations...” Ezekiel 16:2

9. Ezekiel 14:6 “Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD): Repent, and turn [yourselves] from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations.”

10. Ezekiel 33:6 “But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take [any] person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. 33:7 So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. 33:8 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked [man], thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked [man] shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. 33:9 Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.”

11. John 16:1, 2, 3: “These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. (2) They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. (3) And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.”

12. 2 John 1: 9, 10: Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. (10) If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *YOUR* house, neither bid him God speed:

13. Revelation 22: 18, 19. “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: (19) And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and [from] the things which are written in this book.”

14. Psalms 138:2 ... “for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

15. 1 Timothy 5:22: Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

16. Titus 1: 13-16: This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments

of men, that turn from the truth. Unto the pure all things *are* pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving *is* nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny *him*, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

17. Titus 3:10, 11: "A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; (11) Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."

18. 1 Peter 5:8 (Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:)

19. Revelation 12:12 "Therefore rejoice, [ye] heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

20. "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the ***remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.***" Rev. 12:17

21. Rev 19:10 "And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See *thou do it* not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for **the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**"

22. 1 Timothy 3: 5 "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?"

23. Heb. 13:9 "Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein."

Biblical Scriptures Dealing God's Calling For His Watchmen

So we have been given the gift, to expose the Sunday movement. Many do not see the Sunday movement, and we through the 3 angels' message to warn the people of the Sunday movement and what it entails. To warn them now, and not after the Sunday Law has been legislated.

Question what exposed the Dark Ages? It was *God's Word*. So when the Reformers discovered in the Word of God, Did they wait? *No*, they went out and proclaimed it to the people. *Right?* Lets go to the book of Isaiah 9, beginning in verse 9, "And, behold, here cometh a chariot of men, *with* a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground. (Vs.10) O my threshing, and the corn of my floor: that which I have heard of the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, have I

declared unto you. (11) The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? (12) The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come.”

When is the best time to make preparation for the night? *The Day.*

Lets go to the book of John, chapter 9:1- And as *Jesus* passed by, he saw a man which was blind from *his* birth.(2) And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? (3) *Jesus* answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. (4) I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

Again, when is the best time to make preparation for the night? This is what *Jesus* said to His disciples. Here was *Jesus* answer, “I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

Watchmen what of the night, the morning cometh, the time of day is preparation for the night.

Now let’s go back to Isaiah 62: vs 6. “I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, *which* shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, (7) And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.”

So God tells the watchmen, be not silent and to feed the flock of God. The watchmen are to be on duty till *Jesus* comes again.

Now lets’ go to II Samuel Chapter 18, and there it tells us the *duty of a watchman*. II Samuel 18, vs.24.

And it says “And David sat between the two gates: and the watchman went up to the roof over the gate unto the wall, and lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold a man running alone.

And what does the watchman do? “(25) And the *watchman* cried, and told the king. And the king said, If he *be* alone, *there is* tidings in his mouth. And he came apace, and drew near. (26) And the watchman saw another man running: and the watchman called unto the porter, and said, Behold *another* man running alone. And the king said, He also bringeth tidings. (27) And the watchman said, Me

thinketh the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok. And the king said, He *is* a good man, and cometh with good tidings.”

The description of a watchman here, that there was no danger. That the people know what’s going on. That’s the *duty and function of the watchman.*

Watchmen are called to feed the people of God. Let’s turn to I Peter, chapter 5.

Beginning in verse 1: “The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: **Notice now what *the watchman must do...*** “(2) Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the Oversight *thereof*, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;” (3) Neither as being lords over *God’s* heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. (4) And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

So what will the Faithful Watchman receive? When the Saviour returns? *A Crown of Glory.*

Now go with me to the book of Acts chapter 20: (Paul is speaking here) vs. 25.

“And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.” (26) Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I *am* pure from the blood of all *men*.

So what made him pure from the blood of all *men*?

(27) “For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. (28) Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

So the Watchmen of the Night are to watch (Overseers) and feed the church of God. God’s Watchmen are to warn the church of the danger that is coming to His Church.

Again, let’s review in God’s Holy Writ Ezekiel 33: 6-9, of that of a watchman description.

“But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take [any] person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman’s hand.

(7) So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. (8) When I say unto the wicked, O wicked [man], thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked [man] shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. (9) Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." *Ezekiel 33:6-9.*

Are there False Watchmen?

Isaiah 56: 10 "His watchmen [are] blind: they are all ignorant, they [are] all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber." God warns us in His holy Writ and in SOP. The *Nation Sunday Law* will be the final test for the Seventh-day Adventist, but also the world too. And we can see much evidence that there is a Sunday Law is and has been brewing. I must add here brothers and sisters the qualifier. You can keep the 7th day Sabbath, pay your tithe, etc., but if you and I don't have the daily relationship with Christ. The others won't count. Remember, Christ tell us in Mathew 7:21, 22. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 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!'

We all need to prepare ourselves for the final Spiritual Battle. And what must be prepared?

It's Our Minds.

{See what Sister White says in The Great Controversy on page 605, concerning alarmists.}

Sister White tells us in the Great Controversy page 605.3 -1888

"Heretofore those who presented the truths of the third angel's message have often been regarded as mere alarmists. Their predictions that religious intolerance would gain control in the United States, that church and State would unite to persecute those who keep the commandments of God, have been pronounced groundless and absurd. It has been confidently declared that this land could never become other than what it has been, the defender of religious freedom. But as the question of enforcing Sunday observance is widely agitated, the event so long

doubted and disbelieved is seen to be approaching, and the third message will produce an effect which it could not have had before.”

- {GC88 605.3}