

Jesus Is the Judge

The inspired word of God is very clear in revealing that all men are accountable for everything that they do and say. “... *He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given us assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead*” (Acts 17:31). The resurrection of Jesus Christ not only confirms powerfully that He is the Son of God (Romans 1:4), but also, that He is the Judge. To preach Christ is to proclaim both salvation and judgment. Therefore, disciples of Christ seek to persuade men because everyone will “*appear before the judgment seat of Christ*” (2 Corinthians 5:10-11).

The apostle Paul understood well that the Lord is the One who judges. Paul said, “*I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts*” (1 Corinthians 4:4-5). Paul was not aware of anything in his life that separated him from God and alienated him from His promises, but his own self-evaluation was not the final word on the matter. A clear conscience alone does not justify a person. The Lord justifies and judges; thus, Jesus Christ has the final word.

The Judge Himself taught that His word would be used to judge men. “*He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him - the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day*” (John 12:48). His word is the truth. His word is eternal life. His doctrine is the living sword of the Spirit which inherently possesses the divine authority to save and to condemn. The Lord’s word is the final word on the matter.

Sadly, many souls, if not most, rely on their own opinions, emotions and assumptions to justify their beliefs, practices and lifestyles. They nullify the Lord’s commandments by exalting what makes them feel good. They ignore His warnings by giving heed to the philosophies of men. They dismiss His judgments by doing what is right in their own eyes. When the Lord Jesus comes again, His final word to them will be, “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” (Matthew 7:23)