

November 13, 2022

Viewpoint from the **Valley Grove Church Of Christ**

Let No One Judge You

By Heath Rogers

Paul told the Colossians, “*So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ*” (Col. 2:16-17). False teachers had come into their midst and had judged them as being less spiritual than themselves because they were not abiding by their false interpretations of the Scriptures and by their man-made rules (v. 22). These judgments were pronounced in an effort to make the Colossians feel like they were lacking in their faith and service. This was done as a means of intimidating them into accepting their errors. Paul told them not to allow anyone to judge them by things which were not of Christ.

There is, however, another side of this “let no one judge you” matter that must be considered. We are not to allow anyone to judge us with regard to the “shadow,” but that does not mean we cannot be judge according to the things that make up the “substance of Christ.” We are told to judge with righteous judgment (John 7:24), which means that we can be subject to such judgments ourselves. If I claim to be a follower of Christ, then everyone has the right to examine my life in light of my Master’s teaching and “judge” whether or not I am living up to my claim to be a Christian. If something is amiss in my life, my brethren actually have an obligation to bring this to my attention and encourage me to make the needed changes (Gal. 6:1). If their judgment is correct and I need to make changes in my life, then I should be grateful for their judgment.

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Christians are not to allow anyone to judge them by any standard other than the New Testament. However, no Christian is above the righteous judgment of those who are seeing his light shine. Let us learn to appreciate the honest concerns of those who want to help us get to Heaven.

***Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually
from our worship together and hope to see you again.***

What Do You See?

By Paul White

Just look at the kind of world in which we live. Just think about the various attitudes people manifest that can so easily bring doubt and distrust to even the noblest of heart. It's easy to grow cynical. It's even easier to make excuses for periods of inactivity. At times, all of us need our faith strengthened. We just need to be reminded that God is awesome and able, and our work is not in vain. If the apostle Paul had moments wherein he needed encouragement and assurance from the Lord, then so will we.

During Paul's second missionary journey, having left Athens, Paul found himself in Corinth. Paul was facing an enormous challenge among such sinful circumstances. No doubt the Lord knew that even a man like the apostle Paul needed encouragement. And so He spoke to Paul in the night and said, *"Do not be afraid any longer, but go on speaking and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you, for I have many people in this city"* (Acts 18:9-10). Paul was obedient to such a vision and remained in Corinth *"a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them"* (Acts 18:11). Now we know the Lord is not going to speak to us in a vision today as He did Paul, but surely we believe He speaks to us through His word and invites us to trust Him as we go into a world of darkness preaching the gospel of

light. What's interesting is that it took a vision from the Lord to move Paul toward Corinth. Of all places and people, even Paul could not envision this being ripe for evangelism. Ever felt that way about your city?

I believe what the Lord wanted Paul to see, He wants us to see as well today. Let's consider a few things the Lord wants us to see with an eye of faith.

He wants us to see souls. The Lord said to Paul, *"I have many people in this city"* (vs.10). For our purposes, we are reminded that it's people who need the gospel. It's those who are yet in their sins that must *"call on the name of the Lord."* *"But how are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"* (Rom. 10:14) It's in seeing souls, lost people who are in need of the saving gospel of Christ that motivates us to keep looking for opportunities to open our mouths and *"go on speaking and not remain silent"* (vs.9).

He wants us to see His power. After telling Paul to speak and no longer remain silent; He then assured him, *"I am with you."* What a promise! What power! But we need to be tapping into such Divine power. The Hebrew writer assures us that the word of God is *"living and powerful"* (Heb. 4:12). James assures us that the prayer of a righteous

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person “*has great power*” (James 5:16). What a promise! What a privilege! We just need to open our eyes and see how God’s presence and the assurance of such power can change everything. The Lord promised to be with Paul, and He promises to be with us today as we go among the lost seeking to “*make disciples*” of all the nations (Matt.28:19-20). Therefore, we have no reason to be afraid.

He wants us to see the stamina necessary in seeking souls. Paul stayed at the task of preaching and teaching for a year and a half (vs.11), perhaps even longer (vs.18). He would not be easily discouraged or deterred from his work of seeking the lost. How we need such a spirit of determination. Seeking the lost and praying for doors of opportunity is hard work, work that can be filled with frustrations. But we must stay on task. We can’t afford to drift into despair or give up because we haven’t seen fruit in over a year. Let us have endurance for the mission. Let us “*not lose heart in doing good*” (Gal. 6:9), but remain “*steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord*” (1 Cor. 15:58). God promises that our labor will not be in vain.

So the next time Satan tries to use doubt and fear to keep you from seeking some soul to save, how about seeing God’s power and trusting in His presence. Isn’t it time we started walking by faith and not by sight? What do you see?

The Reign Of The Righteous King

By John Isaac Edwards

Psalm 72, which tells of the reign of the righteous king, points to Acts 2 when Jesus began His reign. Let’s take a look.

He Shall Judge Thy People with Righteousness (v. 2). Isaiah prophesied, “. . . and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge. . .” (Isa. 11:3-4). Again it is written, “Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness. . .” (Isaiah 32:1). Paul preached, “. . . he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained. . .” (Acts 17:31).

In His Days the Righteous Shall Flourish; and Abundance of Peace (v. 7). Paul wrote the Romans, “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous” (Rom. 5:19). The Lord said, “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. . .” (Jn. 14:27) and “. . . in me ye might have peace . . .” (John 16:33). “. . . we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1).

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He Shall Have Dominion from Sea to Sea, and unto the Ends of the Earth (v. 8). Zechariah prophesied of the coming King, “. . . and he shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth” (Zechariah 9:10). The Lord told His apostles, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18) and “. . . ye shall be witnesses unto me...unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

All Nations Shall Serve Him (v. 11). In prophesying concerning the Lord’s house, Isaiah said, “. . . all nations shall flow unto it” (Isaiah 2:2). The Lord commissioned His apostles, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations. . .” (Matt. 28:19).

He Shall Redeem Their Soul (v. 14). Redemption “is in Christ” (Romans 3:24). “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace” (Ephesians 1:7).

Men Shall Be Blessed in Him (v. 17). “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ” (Ephesians 1:3).

Have you submitted to King Jesus?

November Birthdays: The 9th Jesse Green; The 17th Sandy Merritt; The 20th Joann Haynes.

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Sunday
Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.
Worship 10:30 A.M.
Worship 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday
Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

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