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Contending FOR THE Faith™

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE THE TRUTH AND HATE ERROR

SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH LECTURESHIP

Saturday, February 29, 2020

THE UNITY DEMANDED BY CHRIST
(Ephesians 4:3-6)

9:00: *Give Diligence to Keep the Unity of the Faith & the Importance of Love*—Weldon Blake
10:00: *That They All May Be One*—Jose Gamez
11:00: *One God & One Bible*—Lovell Henry
1:30: *One Lord & One Faith*—Jack Stephens
2:30: *One Spirit & One Baptism*—Bruce Stuling
3:30: *One Body & One Hope*—John West
12:00 LUNCH

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Contending FOR THE Faith™

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Ira Y. Rice, Jr., Founder
August 3, 1917–October 10, 2001

Editorial...

ANY DOCTRINE IMPLYING A FALSE DOCTRINE IS ITSELF FALSE

Any remarks purporting to explain the meaning and application of a scripture, which remarks in reality alter its meaning and application, are false remarks. For example, when a Baptist preacher (or anyone else for that matter) teaches that one is saved at the point of faith only and, therefore, baptism is not essential to salvation, such teaching does not change what the inspired apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 3:21. Verse 21 continues to teach that **“baptism doth also now save us.”** No matter how many denominational “scholars” or apostates in the church teach that baptism does not save, Peter continues to say **“baptism doth also now save us.”** And, all the explanations to the contrary from a myriad of preachers and teachers do not change what Peter wrote in 1 Peter 3:21, as well as all other scriptures teaching the same.

Another example of remarks that purport to explain the meaning and application of a scripture, but in reality sets aside what it says, is what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 5:11. The apostle wrote that faithful brethren are **“not to keep company”** or **“to eat”** with those from whom God has withdrawn His fellowship. To teach a doctrine that permits at least some brethren to **“keep company”** and **“to eat”** with brethren from whom God has withdrawn His fellowship is false doctrine. No matter what sincere people in or out of the church teach, or if the great majority of people teach and believe it, if said teaching contradicts what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 5:11 and other scriptures concerning the same, it is false doctrine. The apostle ordered,

But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat (1 Cor. 5:11).

Are we to conclude from the above quoted scripture that the faithful are to **“keep company”** with or **“eat”** with brethren guilty of the sins specified therein? Of course, the apostle is directing the faithful **“not to keep company”** with nor **“eat”** with them. Further, if this was the only scripture in the New Testament bearing on this topic, we would be limited in its application to those guilty of the sins specified therein. Thus, the faithful would be free to extend fellowship to brethren who are guilty of other sins not specified in 1 Corinthians 5:11. But this verse is not the only scripture bearing on the same, for there are numerous passages in the New Testament, the totality of which must be known before one may draw a correct conclusion about who all the erring impenitent brethren are to which 1 Corinthians 5:11 and like passages apply. As we have long correctly taught, “We must take all of what the New Testament says on any topic

in its immediate and remote context before we began the reasoning process.” No remarks to the contrary can change or modify what Paul wrote in the foregoing scripture and other scriptures concerning the same. It is the faithful child of God’s obligation to make the necessary sacrifices to comply with what said scriptures in their totality teach. However,

when it comes to fully obeying God, the problem with many people is not that they fail to understand what certain scriptures teach, but they are unwilling to make the necessary sacrifices in their own lives to comply with what is taught therein.

—David P. Brown, Editor

PURPOSING AND MAKING PLANS

Johnny Oxendine

Jesus (the Master Teacher) has shown us how to convey His message by using plain speech and common experiences that appeal to and can be understood by broad audiences. He often uses examples that are relatable and pertinent in order to allow those illustrations to seem (almost) second nature to the hearers. The Lord speaks of Himself as a Shepherd (John 10:11), as the Bread of Life (John 6:35), and as a Bridegroom (Mat. 9:15). The themes and examples were familiar to those who heard Him.

Over the years, I have made use of an example that I believe people can easily relate to, but we have seldom explored it with the full range of implications. The illustration can be drawn from the metaphor and analogy of the airport, but with an opportunity to expand on it a bit for a fuller sense and appreciation of its “familiarity” with emphasis on our eternal salvation.

By comparing the time and total effort that people must take to catch a planned airline flight for a trip with church members getting to Bible classes and worship on time, may be an example for those brethren who seem not to grasp the importance of getting to the building in a timely manner for said classes and worship. Again, this comparison speaks to basic prioritizing on the part of the Christian, because “no one leaves for an airline flight (or the airport) at 11:00 A.M. to catch an 11:00 A.M. flight.” That is the way the comparison usually begins, and “so why would anyone leave for worship at or after 11:00 A.M.?”

If, however, we begin to look at this a bit closer we can bring into the discussion an even deeper set of applications that might help illuminate with greater clarity the investigation of this subject. Remember, that before anyone heads to the airport for their journey they have already booked and paid for the flight prior to the departure of the flight (in most cases travelers do not go to the airport on the day they want to leave to buy a ticket for a flight—at least not normally), so there was the initial planning to make the trip in the first place. The flight reservation and payment indicate that this is a trip of some importance (costs), and that we are intending/hoping to go somewhere for a specific period of time. In the

case of vacations and business trips, we are looking forward to the trip and generally planning where to stay (this means making hotel, hostel, bed and breakfast, reservations, etc.). There is also the consideration of what one needs to wear, spending budgets (additional surface transportation included), and perhaps picking some landmarks to visit and restaurants where you would like to eat. There is a great amount of time put into making the itinerary so that the trip will be both comfortable and enjoyable.

Let us look a little closer at the flight. We must adequately pack for the trip (do we have carry-on bags or are we checking baggage?), that means giving some thought to how to dress on the flight itself to be comfortable (especially if it is a long overseas flight), and also making sure we have an adequate range of clothing to wear. We have checked the weather and are generally aware of what to expect once we land. These are just a few of the many things we think about when we are planning a trip.

WHAT ABOUT PLANNING FOR BIBLE STUDY, WORSHIP, AND THE WORK OF THE CHURCH?

The question today is whether we, for our Sunday and mid-week Bible classes, put as much time, energy, and effort into preparation for our spiritual journeys. Have we read ahead (knowing where we left off in the last class) and prepared questions or done any necessary, helpful, or additional word studies? Have we taken any time to look at maps to see where events take place or to learn distances between locations? How much time do we spend in preparation for Bible class? These things that we do in our “life” are even more important for our spiritual growth in the church (Rom. 12:1, 2; Mat. 6:33).

The Lord said that if we truly want to be His disciples we must deny ourselves, take up the cross (make the necessary sacrifices), and follow Him. Think of how the “denial” of ourselves demands our attention. Knowing full well that in order for us to give the Lord the attention He and His Holy Divine Word deserve, as evidence of our denial of self (selfishness), we will plan for our opportunities to engage (and learn from) the scriptures with like-minded brethren.

We only do ourselves (spiritual) harm by not taking advantage of the moments when we can sit together and study in the quiet and peace provided for our classes as well as work together in spreading the gospel to the alien sinner and edifying the church (Mark 16:15; Tit. 3:1; Jam. 1:27).

How is this done, or what variants of preparation might be expected? Certainly, regarding Bible classes, a reading of the text that will be studied, along with relevant word and topic studies. Let us briefly consider worship. How do we prepare our minds for worship in the mornings? How will we present ourselves to the Lord if we are participating in certain ways (leading prayers, leading singing, serving the Lord's Supper, etc.)? Do we ever think of what might be a part of the prayer we utter? Do we dress in a way that is presentable and respectful for such assemblies? Christians should not look like we simply rolled out of bed and onto the pews, but rather as though we have planned for these pre-

vious moments. The question we must ask ourselves is this: Does our "plan" include the effort to give the Lord our best?

The point is quite a simple and clear one—It is that Christians should do everything possible to show the Lord our desire to be the best disciple we can be for our Bible classes, worship assemblies, and whatever the work for the Lord is. This can be done by presenting ourselves workmen unashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth in our studies worship, and work together (2 Tim. 2:15). There is no better way to begin a new week? If we can spend time and energy in preparation for trips that are temporal, we most assuredly must plan and carefully prepare for our journey into eternity.

—P.O. Box 5026
San Mateo, CA 94402

BIBLE COMMENTARIES

There are two erroneous attitudes that some people hold about using Bible commentaries. One is manifested in the story about an elderly sister who received from a preacher a Bible commentary. The sister having possessed the commentary for some time, the preacher asked her what she thought about the commentary. Her reply to his question was, "the Bible sheds a lot of light on it." The second erroneous attitude toward Bible commentaries surfaces in the following story. When a preacher asked a church member if he had any Bible commentaries that he used in his Bible study, the brother to whom the question was put replied that he never used a commentary, but only read his Bible.

Both of the foregoing positions represent people's wrong understanding of the place and proper use of Bible commentaries. The first story evidences that some do not realize the significance of the answer that the Ethiopian Eunuch gave to Philip's question concerning the Eunuch's study of Isaiah 53. That question was, "**Understandest thou what thou readest**" (Acts 8:30)? The Eunuch answered Philip with his own question, "**How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him**" (Acts 8:31). Thus, the Ethiopian realized that he needed someone else's help in order to comprehend the meaning of the passage. Clearly, the Eunuch had the mental ability to realize from Philip's comments in the passage being read, Isaiah was speaking of Jesus. For Philip began at the same scripture and preached unto him Jesus (Acts 8:35). Philip's inspired commentary taught the Eunuch about the meaning of the Old Testament passage and through Philip's teaching the Eunuch recognized it to be fulfilled in the per-

son of Christ. Thus, this is one scripture that teaches us the proper use of a commentary and such does not bypass the personal thinking that one must do for one's self in a proper study of the scriptures.

Of course, we are expected to study the scripture text for ourselves, for it speaks for itself, but some things in some scriptures are not as readily understood and a commentator can help us through word studies, historical background, comments about the culture, reference to other scriptures bearing on the scripture being studied, and the like. However, we must never forget that nothing can substitute for our own reading and studying of the scriptures themselves. Neither can anything substitute for an earnest desire to know the will of God and having learned it to obey it (Mat. 5:6; also see Luke 8:15 and Heb. 5:9). Thus, we must learn which commentaries are truly helps and which ones are hindrances to understanding the scriptures being studied. One should always begin by reading and meditating on the text, then, if the need arises, seek the help of others (preferably faithful brethren), whether in written commentaries or verbally communicated. However, we should not put our soul's salvation solely in the hands of another man's understanding of the Bible.

Turning to the second erroneous view noted above, we ought to realize that people who refuse to use commentaries in their study of the Bible are many times ignorant, not only of the Bible, but about many other things that all of us need help to understand. Where is the honest person who will say concerning his Bible study that he has never sought nor received help from another person(s) in coming to a proper un-

derstanding of a scripture? The very idea of schools indicate that we need people to help us come to proper understanding of topics, secular or religious. We recognize that there is no mere human being, no matter how learned, that is not wrong on something or another. Nevertheless, we do not oppose all schools and text books because of the foregoing fact. The same is true of Bible commentaries. The exercise of a little common sense would go a long way toward helping us in understanding the purpose of schools, books, and the various aids (which ones are bad, mediocre, or good) that help us to impart information to ourselves and others. The same is the case regarding the study of the Bible and the proper selection and use of commentaries as well as other aids designed to

help us to come to the knowledge of the truth.

In closing, we must know God expects us to study the text and, like the Eunuch, in all honesty exercise the intellectual powers God gave us in determining the scriptural truth about the subject of your study (2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16, 17; Eph. 3:4). Also, do not permit respect of persons among brethren in the Lord or otherwise, your family, friends, colleagues, and the like to form your views. “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17; Also see 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:1, 6; John 12:48).

—EDITOR

NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANITY

What First Century Christians (as that term is defined and used in the New Testament—Acts 11:25; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16:) had was a deep, abiding, fervent love of God, involving every fiber of their being—their bodies offered as living sacrifices for the Lord in all they thought, said, and did (Mat. 22:37; Rom. 12:1, 2). They loved their neighbors as themselves and knew that anyone in need was their neighbor (Mat. 22:39). They loved their brethren in God’s family, the church of Christ (Rom. 16:16), the kingdom of God (Col. 1:13), the body of Christ (Col. 1:18), to which the Lord had added them when, as penitent believers, they completed their obedience to the gospel by being baptized into Christ for the remission of their past and alien sins (Acts 2:38; 41, 42, 47; 10:48; 22:16; Rom. 6:3, 4; Gal. 3:26, 27; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:21; 1 John 3:23). Therefore, being reconciled to God and justified in His sight (Rom. 5:1), they were ready unto every good work—as the New Testament defines and uses “**good works**” (Tit. 3:1).

Their faith in the only Begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ, was an obedient faith—not a faith professed with the mouth and without works of obedience (Jam. 2:20-24). Their faith in God and Godly things was not their personal opinion about spiritual matters, but it was formed, sustained, and strengthened only by the Bible and especially the Word of Christ (Luke 8:11; Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:17; Rom. 10:17, 2 Cor. 5:7; Heb. 11:1, 6; Rom. 6:17, 18; Heb. 5:9).

They knew that the grace of God had supplied the gospel of Christ to them for their salvation (Gal. 3:24-29; Tit. 2:11, 12; Rom. 1:16). Therefore, the Lord’s church, purchased with Christ’s blood, was unified solely on the authority of Jesus Christ (the church’s only head) as declared in the New Testament of Christ (Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:22; Col. 3:17; 1 Cor. 1:10; John 17:17-23).

They proclaimed the gospel without addition, subtraction, or alteration, and without apology, for they knew God located His power to save mankind from their sins in the gospel alone

(Rom. 1:16). As Jesus said to the Jews of His day, “**Except ye believe that I am He, ye shall die in your sins**” (John 8:24; Luke 6:46). Thus, they took seriously the commission of Christ to go everywhere preaching the word of Christ (Mark 16:15, 16; 2 Tim. 4:1-5). Further, they would not compromise the truth of God’s Word, but contended at every level of their society for the truth of Christ (Jude 3; Gal. 1: 6-11; 2 John 9-11). Thus, they chose to suffer affliction, every kind of persecution (2 Tim. 3:12; 2 Cor. 11:23-28), and horrible deaths rather than give up their obedient faith in Christ. This is the case because they looked for the resurrection from the dead at the end of the world when Christ returns to judge all people in the light of His Word (John 12:48; 1 The. 1:10; 2 The. 17-10; 2 Cor. 5:10).

With the foregoing truths regarding the New Testament church before us, we understand that those long ago brethren sought to keep their ranks pure in life and doctrine and why they did. Thus, they practiced corrective church discipline (1 Cor. 5; Gal. 5:19-21; 2 The. 3:6, 7; Rom. 16:17, 18). They were greatly concerned about knowing and living only as the Bible taught them live.

We know the foregoing and more about our early brethren because we can and have read our Bible. If we do not know said matters, it is because we will not study it and/or we do not believe what the Bible teaches. Truly, we have the same Bible, the same New Testament, the same gospel, the same doctrine of Christ. Thus, what we need is the same disposition of heart or attitude toward God, His Christ, His Word, His Gospel, lost mankind, and His church as our ancient brethren had. To do this we must, as the old gospel hymns read, “Let Him have His way with thee” and “Take the world but give me Jesus.”

We must repudiate and condemn all human philosophies, world religions, including and especially denominationalism, and whatever hinders our faithful service to Christ in His blood-bought church. Then, without fear or favor, at all costs, uphold only the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, of our

Lord. This is the case because “the Bible only makes Christians only and the only Christians,” members of the church that Jesus built. One can read about it and understand it when we honestly read our own New Testaments (John 8:31, 32; 17:17; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16, 17; Luke 8:15). Thereby, when we stand before our Lord in the last great day to give account of our lives before Christ, we may do so unashamed. Thus, we shall hear Him say

to us, “**Well done, good and faithful servant**” (Mat. 25:23). To that end we must with a single mind tirelessly labor (1 Cor. 15:58; Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7, 8), enduring all manner of persecution, for it is the only way that is right and cannot be wrong.

—EDITOR

DESPISED AND REJECTED OF MEN, BUT APPROVED OF GOD

Danny Douglas

Isaiah, the prophet of God, prophesied of the rejection of Christ Jesus around seven centuries before His birth: “**He is despised and rejected of men; A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: And we hid as it were our faces from him; He was despised, and we esteemed him not**” (Isa. 53:3).

His own people did not receive their Savior and Creator: “**He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not**” (John 1:10-11).

In Peter’s Pentecost sermon, he declared how that men rejected and killed Him, but that God approved Him:

Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it (Acts 2:22-24).

What a great lesson is this for us! It is a tremendous blessing to know that our acceptance and approval of God is not dependent upon our acceptance by man. In fact, doing God’s will often leads to rejection by people, even by our own brethren—as it did in the case of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. If we are minimized, marginalized, shunned, scorned, and rejected of men, we are not alone. When God sent His only begotten Son into the world, He was “despised and rejected of men”! Therefore, the matter of supreme importance is that we be like Him and do the Father’s will and thereby please God and go to heaven one day.

For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ (Gal. 1:10).

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him (Heb. 5:8-9).

—704 Azalea Drive
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ATTITUDE TOWARD AUTHORITY

The first recorded example of what today is the “Millennial Generation’s” attitude toward authority is revealed in the following words of Adam regarding what he claimed to be the reason he violated God’s will in partaking of the forbidden fruit. “**And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat**” (Gen. 3:12). With Adam, at the time, as is the case today in general with the so-called “Millennial Generation” and others of their stripe who reject those in authority, Adam did not desire to do as God commanded him, so he chose to break God’s law.

When God called Adam to account for his disrespect and violation of His authority, he sought to blame Eve, his wife, for his sin. However, in reality, since God gave Adam his wife, by implication Adam was actually blaming God for his sin—just what Satan desired. Thus, what has been called the “Millennial Generation’s” attitude toward authority is seen in Adam who wanted to do as he pleased without accountability to anyone, even God. How far are some people willing to go in their attempts to reject authority and blame others for what they did is seen in Adam’s attempt to blame God for his sinful action. But who was the one who was at fault in Adam’s violation of God’s Will? Answer: No one but Adam himself.—EDITOR

Are You Sure?

George E. Darling, Sr.

Recently we sang the song, *Where He Leads Me I Will Follow*, just before the sermon and it really threw me for a loop. I went through the sermon I had prepared, but throughout the entire time I was thinking: “DO WE REALLY MEAN IT?” I looked out into a sea of faces and could see many who would sing such a song of *Trying to Walk in the Steps of the Savior* who, I am confident, (and may God forgive me if I misjudge) DO NOT mean it. Perhaps we have painted too rosy a picture of just what it means to be a Christian. Young man, before you make a decision to become a GOSPEL PREACHER you be sure that it is what you REALLY want to do.

Jesus said, “**If any man would come after me let him deny himself (AND THIS IS THE POINT WHERE SO MANY FALTER) and take up his cross and follow me**” (Luke 9:23). If you are going to follow Jesus, you will not be popular with the enemies of Christ. You will be called narrow! You will suffer. You will sweat as He sweated. You will cry and tears will flow even as He cried. You will be persecuted as your Lord was before you. You will have your heart broken and possibly your blood will be shed. Keep in mind that your Lord was treated shamefully. Why should you be treated better? You cannot be popular with the world and the worldly, and believe me, you are going to find many such people who claim to be “following Jesus.” They will hate you. The denominations, Hell and the Devil will try to block every move that you make toward “Standing for the Right.” ALWAYS THERE IS THE ENEMY. Jesus didn’t come into a world that loved Him. The Devil knew who He was and His purpose. When He was born, there was NO ROOM FOR HIM. That was not an accident. He was born an outcast, in a stable, typical of His whole life. Satan hated our High Priest and he hates every “Priest of God” (Christian) who tries to do God’s work. If a few women had not cared for Jesus, He would have gone hungry far more than He did. His only “estate” at the time of His death was a seamless garment that had been given to Him by a friend. Jesus was poor, despised and rejected and was disowned by His own. So don’t be surprised if some who “stand by you” turn on you like ungrateful animals.

ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO PREACH THE GOSPEL? Then keep in mind that for every preacher that can “Set A Fire” that there are hundreds of “Volunteer Fire Fighters” who will try to put it out! If you appeal to sinners both inside and outside the church to REPENT or be damned and disciplined, you will soon learn that the brethren have hired a lot of hirelings who will run to comfort these lost souls in their sinful condition and then turn on you

for preaching repentance and obedience. They remind me of turkeys in a pen. If one turkey happens to get a spot of blood on his head the rest of them will peck him to death. God pity the preacher who will demand repentance and encourages the congregation to withdraw from the disorderly! When this gets around (Don’t worry, the Devil will advertise it well), these hireling cowards who call themselves preachers will jump right on him and peck until his voice and his influence are stilled, or he is KILLED!

We hear a lot about KING JESUS, but you remember that the Jesus you choose to follow was crowned with thorns, not a jeweled, golden crown. He was the recipient of human SPIT on His face, not the costly perfumed creams and ointments of Kings. Our Saviour was robbed of His robe and hung naked. Pilate was richly robed in splendor. Jesus was scrubbed with vinegar and gall across His sacred lips in death, while even the poorest are treated with compassion as death approaches. The world is not receptive to Christ nor His followers. Get your New Testament and read John 15:10ff. The unregenerated worldly person is just as mean today as he was when he crucified the Lord. The world hates PURE CHRISTIANITY and GENUINE CHRISTIANS. This world will treat you, preachers and Christian brethren, just as they treated Christ and the early Christians if we follow His teaching. BE ASSURED OF THAT! GET READY FOR IT. YOU CANNOT AVOID IT and follow where He leads. The line between the world and the church is growing dimmer as the days go by.

DO YOU WANT TO DOUBLE THE MEMBERSHIP WHERE YOU PREACH WITHIN A YEAR? Put on every kind of a show and entertainment program you can think up. Let the bars down, let the services become “testimonial meetings.” Play with the unconverted membership; emphasize BAPTISM ... but play down repentance. Be a popular civic club and lodge member. Never speak out against those “little sins” such as social drinking, lying, nudity, flirting elders and deacons, dancing, gambling, mixed bathing, adultery, unscriptural marriages, etc., etc., etc. This will get the job done. Then you can write your report to the “papers” and BRAG about the GREAT job you have done. BUT... if you dare to emphasize Christian living, holiness of flesh and spirit, church discipline, elders that REALLY oversee and watch for wolves, demand a “Thus Saith The Lord,” and actually TAKE A STAND FOR THE TRUTH, without any compromise ... your name will be MUD. You will run off a lot of those hypocrites who sing, *Where He Leads Me I Will Follow*, but do not mean it. ...(not all of them, some you

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CANT RUN OFF, regardless of how hard you try) and they will run off to one of the “sister congregations” who are so anxious to build the attendance and contribution that they are accepted with open arms, no questions asked. AND IT WILL ALL BE YOUR FAULT ... all you did was preach the truth. Of course, these sensitive runaways will tell everyone that it was “THE WAY YOU PREACHED IT!” What a lie! So you can see why I was “disturbed” over the song, *Where He Leads Me I Will Follow*. I guess I would really be disturbed if we were to sing, *All To Jesus I Surrender*, *All To Him I Freely Give*, just before taking up the collection. ...

—Deceased

“Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment” (John 7:24). To engage in **“righteous judgment”** is to decide what is right and wrong solely on the basis of God’s rightly divided word (Psa. 119:172; 1 John 3:7; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; John 8:31, 32; 12:48; Col 3:17). To forbid ALL judging is to prohibit the judging that Jesus commanded in John 7:24. Indeed, there is a sinful judgment (Mat. 7:1-5) and we are forbidden to engage in it. However, we must practice the judging that Jesus commanded in John 7:24.—DPB

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK

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