

## Judge Not By Rick Duggin

How often do you hear someone trying to salvage an unscriptural position by quoting Matthew 7:1, "Judge not, that ye be not judged"? If nominal Bible students know any passage, it is this one. This verse, like all other scripture, is TRUE, but it is much misunderstood. Many assume ALL judgment must be left with God... under no circumstances may a man judge anyone for anything. What is wrong with this usual view of the passage?

1. It is a self-defeating position. One who judges another as wrong because he judges another, does exactly what he condemns. He is like the man who argues that it is wrong to argue.

2. It would negate our judgment by God. If the first part of Matt. 7:1 is absolute (under no circumstances may we judge), why is the second part not absolute (we will never be judged)?

3. It contradicts other passages. "Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24). Never assume a position in one passage that contradicts another.

4. It would prevent us from following the example of Christ and His apostles. Matthew 6:2-18 teaches us to judge others.

5. It contradicts the context. Carefully read verses 5,6,15-20 to see if we can obey these things without forming judgments.

6. It would permit and encourage excesses in evil and false doctrine. We could not correct our children, our friends, our society, or our brethren for any kind of sin. 1Cor. 5 shows what Paul thought of this view; how do you judge it?

## The Diary of a Bible

January: A busy time for me. Most of the family decided to read me through this year. They kept me busy for the first two weeks. I'm now forgotten.

February: My owner used me for a few minutes last week. He had an argument and was checking references.

March: Grandpa visited us. He kept me on his lap for an hour, reading 1Corinthians 13.

April: I had a busy day. My owner was appointed a leader of something and used me. I got to go to church the first time this year...Easter Sunday.

May: I have a few grass stains on my pages. Had some early spring flowers pressed in me.

June: I look like a scrap book. They have stuffed me full of clippings. One of the girls got married.

July: They put me in a suitcase today. I guess we're off on a vacation. I wish I could stay at home, as I will have to stay in this thing for a month.

August: Still in the suitcase.

September: Back home again, and in my old place. I have lots of company. Two "True Stories" and four "Funny Books" are on top of me. I wish I could be read as much as they are.

October: They used me a little today. One of them is sick. Right now I'm all shined up and in the center of the table... I think the preacher is coming.

November: Back in my old place.

December: They are getting ready for Christmas. I'll be covered under wrapping papers and packages.

### Falling Asleep

"And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not charge them with this sin.' And when he had said this, he fell asleep." (Acts 6:59-60)

The above verse says that when Stephen was stoned, he "fell asleep." Our English word "cemetery" comes from this same Greek word which means "the sleeping of the dead." To label "death" as "falling asleep" is a wholesome thought about death rather than the usual harshness men associate with it. Psalm 116:15 says, "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints." Rev. 14:13 says, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.'"

There have been many unjust killings since the beginning of the world as was Stephen's. The thing, however, that made Stephen great was not that he was unjustly murdered, but that he died in the Lord. Let us proclaim along with the prophet of old: "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my end be like his!" (Num. 23:10)

### Is Truth Essential?

Truth Came by Jesus Christ. (John 1:17)

Jesus Came to Bear Witness to the Truth. (John 18:37)

Truth Makes One Free. (John 8:32)

Truth Sanctifies. (John 17:17)

Truth Purifies. (1Peter 1:22)

God's Judgment Is According to Truth. (Rom. 2:2)

Everyone that Is of the Truth Hears the Voice of Jesus. (John 18:37)

It Is God's Desire that All Men Come to the Knowledge of the Truth. (1Tim. 2:4)

Those Who Do Not Obey the Truth Will Be Lost Forever. (Rom. 2:8-9)

### Could It Be...?

...that people reject the Bible — not because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them?

...that some brethren do not attend various worship periods and Bible study classes because Christ is not really their "first love?"

...we utterly abhor the violence going on in the world, yet do not think twice about what our families entertain themselves with on television and at the movies?

...that some brethren honestly see no connection between commitment, attendance, and involvement?

## A Moments Wisdom

He who is good at making excuses is seldom good for anything else.

The Bible never suffers from neglect, but those who neglect the Bible do.

If we stand for truth and right during the day, peace of mind is ours when we retire at night.

Counting time isn't half as important as making time count.

Wise men learn from the mistakes of others; fools insist on learning from their own.

To have friends you must pay the price — be one.