

A STRICTER JUDGMENT

Michael Pickford

“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment” (James 1:1). Is the stricter judgment here referring to the judgment of the Lord on the last day? I tested this against other passages and found the position wanting. My understanding is that everyone will be judged by the same Gospel, the same standard, the same words – Jesus’ words (John 12:48). The Greek word, Krima, is sometimes used to refer to the final condemnation, but it’s also often used of men passing judgment on others.

James here has in mind the idea of public teachers, such as those who

would preach and/or teach from the pulpit. It is obvious to everyone that preachers and elders, along with their families, are under the spotlight of others. It is bad if brother so and so is caught using bad language, but if a preacher is caught doing such, the condemnation others mete out will include additional words at the end, “I heard him using bad language, **and him being a preacher!**”

Many have left the pulpit due to this spotlight on themselves and their families. There’s a lesson here for potential preachers and all others. Let’s test all men equally against the one standard, the Gospel. 🔍

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don’t hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God’s word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD’S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

- www.defendthegospel.com
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5th Sunday Men’s Training Class, 4:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men’s Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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“They...searched the scriptures daily...” –Acts 17:11

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DID GOD SPEAK TO YOU?

Michael Pickford

In the past, large false religions have been built based on the claims of modern day “Prophets” who insisted that God spoke to them outside of, and in addition to His revelation through Scripture. Let’s examine three concepts pertaining to our subject...

Error. We need to be reminded of and emphasize the fact that it is religious error to believe and teach that God speaks to anyone today outside of His revealed scripture. Jesus assured His disciples that the Spirit would guide THEM into ALL truth (John 16:13). This leaves no room for any more truth being revealed today. Paul assured us that the miraculous spiritual gifts such as prophecy would cease when that which is perfect had come (1 Corinthians 13:1-13). Complete revelation was in fact accomplished in the first century. Peter assured his listeners that God had given all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). Paul assured Timothy that scripture provides all a man needs to be complete, thoroughly equipped (2 Timothy 3:16-17); and Jude exhorted Christians to contend for the Faith that had once for all time been delivered to the saints (Jude 3).

Excitement. Many are deceived by modern day revelators because the idea is exciting to them. This is evidenced by the enormous success of the deceivers. Islam has become one of the largest religions in the world, and was started by Muhammad who claimed God was speaking to him. The Mormon religion remains one of the fastest growing religions in the world. It was started by Joseph Smith who claimed God spoke to him through an angel named Moroni. Paul said that even if an angel from heaven taught another Gospel, let him be accursed (Galatians 1:6-9).

Exploitation. We’ve all seen the Televangelists such as Oral Roberts, who famously locked himself in a tower and claimed that if he didn’t get eight million dollars in donations by a specific date God would call him home. He got his money. He was famous for his “Miracles” and “Modern day “prophecies.” He is one of many, exploiting people for money. Simon the Sorcerer did the same thing (Acts 8:9-11). Paul declared that he was not “As so many, peddling the word of God” (2 Corinthians 2:17). I’ve recently read about a preacher among us who claimed that God spoke to him outside of scripture. Brethren, beware, the devil does not rest! 🔍

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IS ONE BEER OKAY?

Mike Thomas

It is clear that God condemns drunkenness—“*those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God*” (Gal. 5:21); “*Wine is a mocker, intoxicating drink arouses brawling, and whoever is lead astray by it is not wise*” (Pro. 20:1). We must turn away from drunkenness to be saved (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

“But what if I don’t get drunk? What if I only have one or two beers? Is that still a sin?” Yes, it is. Peter addressed this very thing in 1 Peter 4:3 when he condemned “*drunkenness, revelries, and drinking parties.*” Revelries refers to the celebratory use of alcohol (like after winning the game), while drinking parties refers to casual, social drinking without the intent of getting intoxicated. All of these condemn a recreational use of alcohol and drugs. The only exception the Bible gives is when we must use intoxicants for medical purposes (“a little wine for the stomach’s sake,” 1 Tim. 5:23).

Some will use Jesus’ miracle of turning water into wine (John 2:1-11) to justify drinking and getting high today, but that interpretation places Jesus in violation of other Bible passages. Obviously, the wine He produced was not the intoxicating drink men manufacture today. Nevertheless, God tells us to “*not look on the wine when it...sparkles in the cup*” but to the problems it brings (Pro. 23:29-35). Social drinking is the first step to a world of pain and misery.

Even those who say no damage is done after one or two beers don’t believe that, which is why they won’t let the pilot fly after a drink or won’t let the bus driver take their kids home after a glass of wine. We expect people to be sober-minded to make good, safe judgments; and one drink is enough to impair a person’s judgment. But even if it doesn’t God says to avoid intoxicating drink because “*whoever is lead astray by it is not wise*” (Pro. 20:1). Do not be deceived by Satan’s lure. -

Mark Your Calendars!



- ✓ April 19: Singing Practice, 5 pm
- ✓ April 20: Song Service, 6 pm
- ✓ June 14-19: Gospel Meeting with Larry Ping

SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

The Great Physician

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

**STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11**

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Ben Green
- Scripture Reading...Sam Miller
Reading: Matthew 9:9-13
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Todd
- Lord’s Table:
Lead.....John Nelson
Serve.....Michael Pickford
Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Lord’s Table.....John Nelson

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Tony Jenkins
- Invitation.....Ben Green

GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

Thank You For Serving!

*Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!*