

Thou Shall Not Judge

Thou shall not judge. Many people quote this, but in actuality it isn't even in the Bible, nor will it work when you stand before the Judge of judges. Judgment is written on the mind of each person. Everyone has a sense of justice. Many times you can see people outraged at injustice such as a murder, rape, or some horrific crime. Has anyone ever wronged you? How did it make you feel? Happy, sad, mad, or indifferent? If you are like most people you were not pleased with the action. God, the lawgiver of all mankind, has emplaced inside you a law. This is called your conscience. The word conscience means "with-knowledge." God has placed upon man morality i.e. certain laws governing what is right or wrong. Each person has knowledge of these laws. A few are: Thou shall not lie. Thou shall not steal. Thou shall not commit adultery. Everyone knows these things are wrong. Do you disagree? If you do, then how would you like to be lied to, stolen from, or have adultery committed against you? You wouldn't want that to happen to you, because you know it is wrong. But, sadly enough, many times man will try to justify his sinful desires and override what he/she knows it wrong. Just as you were not pleased when someone wronged you, neither is God Almighty.

Many times we imagine that we have only hurt ourselves or a dear friend. This is just not true. We have offended God. If you were to murder someone, yes you would hurt yourself, and the one you murdered, but that is not all. You have also provoked judgment and offense from the government by breaking the law. Eventually you would stand before the judge and give an account of what happened. Even if you hope to lie, the evidence is still against you. Your conscience will be the witness on your day in God's courtroom. And often times it screams "GUILTY! He did it! I was there! Even though he tried to cover my eyes, I saw it!" God is the Judge you have offended. How offended is God? He is offended enough to create an eternal Hell. Hell will be the prison for all offenders of God. The Great Judge of judges who sees all will judge you. Will you be guilty or innocent? You may say, "Ah, but I have asked for pardon!" That will not work with a judge here, nor will it work with God. "Oh, but I confessed my crime!" Wonderful, but that doesn't make you clean of the crime. If you were to confess guilty in the courtroom, you would still be guilty. "I have done much good since my 'wild days.'" Yes, and so have many criminals after breaking the law. Just as if you may slow down after you see the blue lights behind you while driving, many try to do good works to cover their evil works. But it still stands GUILTY!

Many times an officer will issue warnings. The government also wants the people to know the laws, so they won't be incarcerated. God has done something similar. The warning God has issued is contained in the Bible. A few examples came from the very mouth of Jesus. "Repent or perish! (Luke 13:3, 5)" and "Repent and believe the Gospel. (Mark 1:15)" In God's loving-kindness, He has done more than sent a warning, but also a Deliverer. In Matt. 1:21, it says "He shall save his people from their sins." Christ is a deliverer. He can set you free from death, hell, and all sin! Why can He do that? He took your death sentence on the cross. You must have faith in Him. Have faith in His death on the cross and resurrection. The question is, "What is faith?" The most basic explanation of saving faith is "response to the Revelation of God." You must respond to

what you know or your faith is dead (see James 2:20). What should your response be? Repent from your sin (forsake it) and obey Jesus. If all you do is believe and do not respond, you are not different than all the devils that are on their way to hell (James 2:9). To have forgiveness you must forsake sin. To have any chance of you going to hell obliterated you must be in obedience to Christ. When you make this response to Christ's work and life, the Holy Spirit dwells within you. When that happens your whole life changes! You are born again. All things have become new and the old has passed away (2Co 5:17). My plea with you is to turn to Christ and live, not to stay in sin. If you stay in sin, you have nothing to look forward to but death and hell. He is worthy to be worshipped, praised, and obeyed! Don't let Him die in vain! God is not willing that you should perish (2 Peter 3:9) and neither is the one that gave you this tract.