

THINGS THAT SHOULD “GO WITHOUT SAYING”

EDITOR

(FROM JESUS PEOPLE INFORMATION CENTER FREE NEWSLETTER-VOL. 32, ISSUE 2)

When a book or a newsletter like this is being read or when you hear a sermon in church or on the street and you feel like screaming “Don’t Judge Me” and think the words of the Bible back you up, consider this: This newsletter, a book, a sermon is not a personal message to you—if the shoe doesn’t fit, don’t wear it; or maybe your guilt is real.

Unfortunately even most Christians are ignorant of the fact that the New Testament has five different words and at least eight different meanings for the word ‘*judge*’. Additionally there are numerous scriptures which use other words that demand the same meaning. Jesus said “beware of false prophets.” Naturally you must ‘*judge*’ to be able to do this. In Romans Paul tells Christians “who are you to judge your brother?” Yet in Corinthians he commands the Christians to “Judge those in the church”. No contradiction. The context explains it all. We should never judge self-righteously, as the Pharisee judged the Publican in Luke ch. 18 and we should not judge or preach against a sin that we are actively guilty of ourselves. That’s hypocritical judgment.

Otherwise we are commanded to judge prophecy, judge those who claim to be prophets, false teachings (heresies and cults and anti-christ religions). Though no Christian is perfect 24/7, 52 weeks a year in every thought and deed, there are lines you cannot cross concerning judging behavior also. For example :

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.” (I Cor. 6:9, 10)

I was guilty of almost every sin mentioned here, and many others. The point is you cannot continue to live like this and make it to heaven as the context shows.

When Charles Finney stated “False religious teachers are worse than murderers for they murder the souls for whom Christ died.” He was biblically correct. We have led people out of religions so evil that if they continue believing what the religion teaches they would end up in HELL. A strong judgment you say?

I’ll just mention one reason why for each group (but there are many reasons): “Jehovah’s Witnesses

teach their members only 144,000 will go to heaven, so it is not necessary now to be “born again spiritually” because if they work hard enough to escape Armageddon they will live on the new earth. (They teach their members how **not** to be saved.)

Mormons believe the trinity is three gods of many millions of other gods. That Jesus is the brother of Lucifer and if they work hard enough at the Mormon teachings they too will be a god ruling their own planet with “a Jesus and Satan” of their own under their control. It is inconceivable that true repentance can be achieved by people who believe that they themselves and Almighty God are of the same “kind”. Christian Science denies Jesus Christ died on the cross. They claim sin, sickness and death are just illusions, making God a liar.

The Bible condemns these teachings very clearly. It is a shame that Christians are so ignorant that they just “avoid” standing up for the truth. Excuses such as “I witness by my life” That’s good as far as it goes but some of the happiest decent people are deceived by everything from the Bahai faith to the false teaching of Universalism. Happy and decent, **but deceived**. People might “look at them” and think they have the “answer”. Atheists and witches can have good manners and can be honest citizens.

It’s time for the large majority of American Christians, born-again Christians (God recognizes no other kind) to “get serious”. Most have an excuse that will not stand up to God’s word. You’ve heard it, you’ve said it. “I don’t believe religion should be shoved on people”. Then just share it, duh! You can’t “make” a person a Christian. “I don’t want to condemn anyone else’s religion” Why? Think it out! Jesus was offensive to almost everyone as were the Old Testament prophets and New Testament apostles. And they paid dearly for it. Judge yourself. You may not really be saved yourself, or maybe you just don’t know what the Bible teaches. Anyway if you just say “I don’t believe that because” and you learn enough to give sound reasons, they might not be offended and might get saved. You don’t have to witness to everyone you meet—duh. But are you doing your share or supporting Christian groups that do?

Christians, apostate church members and pagans all know the song “Amazing Grace”. The church and the world need to pay attention to the words.

“T’was Grace that taught my heart to **FEAR**, then grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.”

Some people need to be afraid of where they are going. Have you ever felt the fear? How many of you have said, “I don’t want to hear about condemnation.” We are all condemned until we realize we are headed for God’s righteous eternal judgment in Hell (a place of no hope) for our willful sins – and most refuse to repent of their evil and receive God’s free salvation in the person of his eternal Son, Jesus Christ. (John 3:18 are the exact words of Jesus Himself).

How well the apostle 21 centuries ago saw the situation. “I charge you therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” 2 Tim. 4:1-4”

Only God can regenerate (give spiritual life) to a person. From Genesis to Revelation the command to repent and believe is found. If you really love someone you won’t mind “hurting their feelings,” if necessary, to wake them up to the truth. **Our Bible course could help many of you whether you are a Christian or not. I make no money at all on it.** It is 12 lessons with many books for \$300. Or order one lesson at a time for \$25 per lesson. In 1975 I took a “Pastor’s Bible course”, 16 lessons, from the Southern Baptist Seminary for \$600. I’m sure it would cost much more than that now. Our course is 10 times better than that one and half the price. Most of you would learn more than you have learned in 20 years of church attendance. The world picks and chooses, even from the Bible, what it wants to believe is true. Christians who also use this practice most stop. That’s how deception works. If you don’t embrace the whole truth, you may not really be a Christian at all. When was the last time you heard preaching in your church based on any of these scriptures? For example:

“If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out, better to enter life blind, than enter hell with sight.”
“Do not fear them which can kill the body, fear Him who has power to destroy both body and soul in hell.”
“He who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for the kingdom of God—Remember Lot’s wife.”

“Strive to enter by the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and many there are who go there, but narrow is the way and straight is the gate that leads to eternal life and few there are that find it.” “Knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men”

There is only one kind of “saving faith”. Here are two examples.

1. Read the book of Job, at least chapters one and two. Hear Job’s reply, “Though God slay me yet I will trust Him.”
2. Read Daniel chapter 3 and note these words. “Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O King. But if **NOT**, be it known to you O King we will not serve thy gods.”

Whoever you are I pray God will give you the grace to do His will in your life. Jesus Christ did not come to earth to live a sinless life only to be ridiculed, persecuted and willingly die to offer mankind one of many ways to better your life, or help you turn over a new leaf or make you healthy, wealthy and wise, or to find a purpose in life. You don’t find that purpose until you repent and find Jesus as your savior. He came to save our souls from the Hell we all deserve. Christians who really know that understand my “concerns”. It’s time to put the horse back in front of the cart. The first public sermon Jesus preached was “Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand”. Perhaps it’s time for Christians and non-Christians to sit down and read the Bible again.

Keep the Faith

When was the last time you heard a sermon, for one example, from Colossians, chapter 1, where Paul addresses “the saints” verse 2, who had faith in Jesus Christ verse 4, saying they had been made partakers of the inheritance vs. 12, and had been translated into the kingdom of the Son of God vs. 13, redeemed by the blood, vs. 14 now reconciled to God vs. 21, then Paul declares in verse 23 “**IF** you continue in the faith grounded and settled and not moved away from the hope of the gospel” read the entire chapter and book for yourself. Let’s believe all the message and preach all the message. It is a truth—most Christians will continue in the faith. But to say “everyone who is really saved will never do any of those things Jesus and his apostles warned believers about; they will never turn away.”—Really? I prefer to tell people exactly what the Bible says. After over 30 years in active literature and personal evangelism I realize there are people of all levels of intelligence, different levels of

education and biases who read and don't understand so I want to close this way.

If you are not a Christian or not sure, you must simply come to God with the attitude of the Publican in Luke chapter 18 and your object of faith as your savior must be the Lord Jesus Christ Romans ch. 10 vs. 9 & 10. If you are/were a Christian and believe you have been so bad/evil God won't forgive you, **the remedy is the same** I John 1 vs. 8 & 9—confess to Jesus (the only mediator) what you did wrong (sin). He will restore you and forgive you for all you may have forgotten you did also. You have not committed any “unpardonable” sin! God wants to forgive all. Drop that pride and go to Him! You don't need a priest!

Jesus said, “Thy Word is Truth” *Doctrine is important*. It determines what you believe and what you do and your eternal destiny. It's very important to know what the Bible says and what it means. I'm talking about the main and plain basic beliefs. The Devil quoted scripture to Jesus and is still speaking it today. Make sure you know who you are listening to! And make sure that's what the Bible means when they quote it. And finally, to the person who told me he was afraid to even mention Hell to his lost friends because it would drive them further away from God; “stop walking on egg shells.” If your heart is right and you tell the truth—the blame is on them—not you! Whether you're timid or firm, if your motive is true, the truth will not drive people away from Jesus. That's just their “excuse” that God will never accept on Judgment Day. Naturally use the Bible as your guide. It is not necessary to tell a repentant person that they need to repent. Jesus warned the rebellious unbelievers, and just offered mercy to the repentant seeker. **That's what Jesus would do.**



Friend, I stand in judgment now, and feel that you're to blame somehow. On earth, I walked with you day by day, and never did you point the way. You knew the Lord in truth and glory, but never did you tell His story. My knowledge then was very dim; You could have led me safe to Him. Yes, I knew He'd made the earth, but knew not of that second birth. And now I stand this day condemned because you failed to mention Him. You taught me many things, that's true; I called you "Friend" and trusted you. Now I learn that it's too late, you could have kept me from this fate. We walked by day and talked by night, and yet you showed me not the light. You let me live, and love and die, and knew I'd never live on high. Yes, I called you "friend" in life, and trusted you through joy and strife. And yet, coming to this end, I realize you're not my Friend!