

The Old Hickory

Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Things to Know Before You Meet the Judge

If you were arrested and facing a trial, you would want to hire the best lawyer available. You'd want one that had experience in criminal proceedings. It would be even more helpful if you could find one with personal knowledge of the judge who would try your case. He would then be able to advise you about how you should act in the courtroom, how you should dress, and any other particulars that might help you get the most favorable ruling from the judge.

All of us are facing a certain and real judgment (Hebrews 9:27). This will be the most important of all 'trials,' for it involves our eternal souls (2 Cor. 5:10). Thankfully, we know about the Judge. Based upon this knowledge of Him we can prepare ourselves to stand before His judgment. Consider:

1) He is just and all-knowing (Rev. 15:3; Prov. 15:3). With a human judge you might hope to offer a bribe or to hide the truth from him. That will not happen with the eternal judge.

2) He judges by an absolute standard (John 12:48; PS. 19:7,8). Some judges interpret the law differently than others. Some refuse to uphold every element of

the law. But the Lord will judge us all by the final and complete authority of His Word.

3) He will judge each one based upon their own deeds (2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:12). Our system of justice is based upon the presumption that some crimes are worse than others. If we can convince the judge that our violations aren't as bad as those of others, we might hope for a lesser sentence. But in the final judgment we will not be able to benefit by comparing ourselves to others or by pointing out people who are "worse" than us.

4) Extenuating circumstances won't be allowed as a 'defense' with this judge (Matt. 7:21-23).

5) His judgment will be final. There will be no 'appeal process' (Lk. 16:19- 26).

You know the Judge and His methods. Prepare yourself!

- Greg Gwin

Beware of Normal

According to a humorous television commercial, one of the first signs of termite infection in your home is that "everything looks perfectly normal." It is their way of convincing us that a lot of damage can be done before you even notice it. The ad might serve to remind us of problems that can occur in our spiritual house if we do not take protective measures. The very foundation can be destroyed while everything on the outside seems to be normal by the standards of our day. When our lives are comfortably blended into the society we live in, when there is nothing unusual about our moral or religious principles, when our priorities are the same as the great majority of our neighbors, then things are dangerously "normal." The problem is that "normal" is a term that is determined by man's standards, and though measuring up to it may provide a degree of comfort here, it falls far short when it comes to laying up treasures in heaven.

Paul warned the Corinthians of some who "measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves with themselves, are without understanding." (2 Cor. 10:12.) It is God's yardstick that matters, not that of the "main-stream of society." God has always required His people to be separate (Isa. 52:11; 2 Cor. 6:17 - 7:1) not physically withdrawn, but distinct in

conversation and conduct, not fashioned according to the world. (Rom. 12:1,2.) It is a sobering Biblical truth that few will be saved; the majority will enter the broad way that leads to destruction. (Matt. 7: 13, 14.) It is strange, then, that we should be satisfied with attaining a status accepted by society. What value is it, if we lose our souls?

Friend, if your life seems "normal" enough by man's standards, it may be that your spiritual house is caving in. It will not be shored up by man's money or man's tools, but by the Word which framed the worlds. (Heb. 11:3.) The answer is some honest, objective study of it, for it is the standard which will judge us. (John 12:48.)

- Larry Walker

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- "If a million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing."
 - "We know what a person thinks not when he tells us what he thinks, but by his actions."
 - "Be careful of your thoughts; they may become words at any moment."
 - "Without hard work, nothing grows but weeds."
 - "There isn't a person anywhere who isn't capable of doing more than he thinks he can."
 - "Minds are like parachutes. They only function when they are open."
 - "Even if you have pains, you don't have to be one."
 - "You should never imagine that you know too much to learn something new."
 - "Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference."

SUNDAY'S LESSONS: Sunday morning: *“Why Was The New Testament Given To Us?”* (text: Luke 1:1-4); Sunday evening: *Jesus Christ: A Closer Look – The Search for Testimony!* (Mark 14:53-65).

SCHEDULE: Our Fall Gospel Meeting is scheduled for Sept. 18-23, with Eric Reynolds.