

Children of the Prophets

February 2013

Subject: Righteous Judgment

A recent teaching of this ministry dealt with the biblical authority for the claims to Christian faith from President Barack Obama, particularly among those who are themselves believers in the message of salvation through the death and life of Jesus Christ. This elicited a response from a beloved brother who suggested that he believes it is not a minister's job to "judge" another man's faith. I will, therefore, address his sincere statement directly with the scriptural teaching about righteous judgment, beginning with the example of John the Baptist who spoke scathingly against the hypocrisy of the religious leaders of his day and even remarked publicly on the inappropriate relationship between King Herod and his brother's wife, Herodias. This indiscreet and politically incorrect judgment ended up costing him his head; however, since this account is contained in the scriptures it would seem that God favors honesty in dealing with those who can potentially affect the lives of many people. Certainly, I do realize that the scriptures adjure God's saints to obey the duly authorized government officials in the societies where they are ambassadors, but this is solely in the area of civil laws and regulations that are intended to preserve a stable society and to protect from criminal abuse against one another. The word of God is just as clear in saying; however, that the civil authorities have no legitimate role in determining the spiritual issues that affect the church and its membership. That is the responsibility of the called and ordained minister who are serving under Jesus as overseers of God's people. Regrettably, just like in the days of Moses, the people often reject the very ones given by God to be their rulers and deliverers. Even those who are curious about the message of the gospel, like the Roman governor Felix, are somewhat nonplussed by the true teaching about God's judgment on unrepentant sinners. The truth is that God's judgment has begun in His own house, the church, and He is teaching and training His children to be prepared to judge, or spiritually lead, the entire world once the current human leaders are deposed by the returning Christ, or Messiah. At that time the "judges" will be restored over the whole earth, as they are now established in the churches of God, with the commission to go into the world baptizing disciples and teaching them to observe all the things that Jesus commanded. Remember that Peter gave a very strong rebuke to Simon Magus in Samaria when he attempted to purchase a position of authority in the church. The Psalmist wrote a lengthy psalm about the importance of God's laws, statutes, and judgments in teaching the people of God to exercise righteous judgment or discernment. Yet, within the church the members are instructed to not judge one another over personal faults, illustrated by planks or specks, but rather to seek Christ's help in the removal of their own impediment to good vision in order to see clearly to aid their gospel partners in being relieved of their afflictions. Christ's purpose for coming into an earthen body was redemptive as He is working to seek and save those who are lost in sin and death. Because of His sacrificial death, and subsequent resurrection, His people are also given the "mind of Christ" to exercise in judging righteous judgments, not for condemnation but for the redeeming and restoring of all things. It is my sincere desire to have Barack Obama and every other leader of mankind be delivered from their sinful nature and the penalty of death that has been paid for them if they will only confess their own need for a Savior and turn back from their ways to Jesus, who is the narrow way that leads to eternal life. Please pray for me and I will pray for you as we all pray for God's mercy to triumph over judgment as the knees begin bending before the awesome power and glory of our triumphant King of kings and Lord of lords.

Personally read and reflect on these scriptures . . . Luke 3:7-20 and Matthew 14:1-12 . . . Acts 7:23-36 . . . Romans 13:1-7 . . . Acts 24:22-27 . . . I Peter 4:17 . . . Isaiah 1:21-31 . . . Matthew 28:18-20 . . . Psalm 119:66 . . . Matthew 7:1-5 . . . I Corinthians 2:6-16 . . . Philippians 1:9-11.

For scripturally honest and constructive responses: glovereleven@bellsouth.net