

## Discipleship 401 Chapter 09 Judgement of God

Open with insights from the previous week. Comment on what the Lord has been teaching you.

Romans 14:2-7, <sup>2</sup>One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. <sup>6</sup>Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone.

When speaking of "judgement of God", we have to be clear on what we aren't talking about. Those who are in Christ are not under condemnation, but under grace. It is not that you don't have sins but the pledge of your heart to the Lord covers you with his grace and righteousness. Sanctification for your sins is there when you receive forgiveness and the Holy Spirit. However, further sanctification and growth in the Lord is brought about in your walk with the Lord.

This discussion is on our carnal dispositions that keep us from growing in the Lord or cause us to do things against others. These would be things the enemy uses against us to cause us to sin, or others to sin against the Lord. All will be judged on that day... you get credit for that which is according to God's will and not for actions carnal. God has to judge sin, he can't just let it go.

Hebrews 4:12-13, <sup>12</sup>For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. <sup>13</sup>Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Even people well meaning who want to serve God have issues that interfere with their ability to do God's will. If the Lord brings discipline and change now, we will receive God's blessings instead of judgement later.

Titus 1:9, <sup>9</sup>He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

This is the charge of an overseer and elder in the church. God must sometimes discipline people.

Titus 1:10-16, For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. <sup>11</sup> They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. <sup>12</sup> One of Crete's own prophets has said it: "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>13</sup> This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith <sup>14</sup> and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth. <sup>15</sup> To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. <sup>16</sup> They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.

In every culture there are certain traits engrained that don't disappear because someone comes to the Lord. Individuals have their own issues. We are like a water filled jar with a light shining out of it. There is dirt and sediment in it that obscures the light. If we can be cleansed of some of the dirt, we can be more effective for the Lord's Spirit. Discuss these concepts.

2 Timothy 2:20-21, <sup>20</sup> In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. <sup>21</sup> Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

The question will be; how do we bring a change in an aspect of a person's nature. Think of a carnal disposition and trait as allowing a taint into this jar that holds the light. The taint allows the evil one to influence in that area. If sin is allowed to reign, evil spirits are allowed to control that area. If that area comes under God's judgement, God then controls that area. God's Spirit then works to bring that area under his control and bless that person in that area of their life. This applies to anything that is against God's will, even subtle mockery and degradation of God's creation and people. You want to direct God's Spirit against the particular offensive trait to cleanse it but bring a work of the Spirit to bear bringing the person to speak and pray regarding that issue in the body of Christ.

Matthew 18:18, "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be<sup>[a]</sup> bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be<sup>[a]</sup> loosed in heaven.

You will now pray for each other one at a time. The person being prayed for can pick one area they would like prayer for. The others take turns praying as you feel you ought. You may pray for anything else you feel led to.