

DO YOU AGREE WITH JESUS?

QUESTION: By what will man be judged?

Society judges an individual based upon many subjective standards. How one dresses, those with whom one associates, what kind of automobile one drives are all factors used by society to determine the status of an individual. Failure to meet or exceed the “norm” in specified criteria results in exclusion from certain groups, and brings about the giving of a societal label, which may or may not be a fair representation of those to whom these labels are attached. Will the same criteria be used when our spiritual lives are examined? Does God use such fluctuating standards in judging man’s soul?

Jesus said, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). Man’s eternal destiny does not rest upon such fickle standards as societal standing or material wealth, and we should all thank God for that! The final, and most important judgment will be based upon an immutable, purely objective standard—God’s word. Jesus pronounced to the world that the word he spoke would be the canon of judgment for the entire world. Man will be judged based upon his acceptance of, and obedience to the word of God, or his rejection of it.

While on Mars’ Hill, Paul told those to whom he spoke that Jesus Christ had been appointed by God to judge the world (Acts 17:30,31). However, on more than one occasion, Christ made the statement that he did not come to judge the world (John 3:17-19 [ASV]; 12:47). Is this a contradiction? Not at all. When Jesus said he did not come into the world to judge the world, he was saying that he did not come to condemn the world. The world was already condemned! The world was steeped in sin, without hope of salvation—that is, until Christ came into the world. Those who have rejected the offer of salvation in Christ have condemned themselves. At the last day, Christ will merely pass sentence on all men. May our lives be such that they are fitting of the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:27), so that heaven may be our home when this life is over.

Do you have a question that you would like for us to consider together, or a comment regarding what has been written? If so, please email us at sixthavenue@bellsouth.net, or write to us at the Sixth Avenue Church of Christ, 1501 Sixth Avenue, Jasper, Alabama, 35501.