

# The Oak Grove Oracle

(Family News & Views of the Oak Grove Church of Christ)

Meeting Weekly At Our Building Located At:

14 CR 3240, at the intersection of FM 1402 N. (Mailing Address: P.O. Box 523), Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455, (903) 572-0859

Church Website: [www.churchofchristoakgrove.com](http://www.churchofchristoakgrove.com) or, [www.ogcoc.net](http://www.ogcoc.net)

David A. McCain, Gospel Preacher & Bulletin Editor, (903) 577-1540 (H), 285-1756 (M)

Volume VI ..... Sunday, February 11, 2018 ..... Number 6

## Judge Righteous Judgment - Unwarranted Assumptions

In His monumental *Mountaintop Message*, Jesus warned His disciples to be careful about making snap judgments without getting all the facts. The text says, "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again" (Mt. 7:1-2). In what surely is one of the most misunderstood passages of Scripture, Jesus did not forbid making any judgment, He just qualified the matter by noting we ought to treat others like we want to be treated. In other words, our judgments must be factual and fair. The truth of this matter is made even clearer when we consider another statement of the Master, found in John chapter seven. "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24).

Isn't it strange how in today's "don't judge me for anything" culture, some folks will judge you for being judgmental? That is the height of hypocrisy. I doubt we can go through a single day without making hundreds of judgments. Is this food or medicine safe to ingest? Should I participate in this activity? Is this person a good influence on me? Whom should I vote for in the coming election? What about this product - is it really a good value for my hard-earned money? And on and on we could go.

God's Word actually encourages us to make cautious judgments, especially about spiritual matters. Jesus warned, "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits" (Mt. 7:15-16). The Apostle John wrote, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 Jn. 4:1).

One great pitfall to avoid in judging righteously is in making unwarranted assumptions. A disgruntled member was angry with the elders for having a church planning meeting, wherein pizza was served for a meal with the meeting. Because the member made an unwarranted assumption, he wrongly assumed the pizza party had been paid for out of the church treasury, which he did not feel was appropriate. Rather than humbly asking about the facts first, the cranky brother lambasted the elders in a public setting for wasting the Lord's money. The truth was one of the elders had paid for the pizza out of his own pocket. Get the facts first!

David A. McCain