

# The Oak Grove Oracle

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

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Volume VI ..... Sunday, March 18, 2018 ..... Number 11

## Judge Righteous Judgment (#5) - Avoiding Compromise

As we continue our series of articles about the Lord's teaching concerning proper spiritual judgment, we must remember that sometimes in our personal lives and in the corporate conduct of the body of Christ, Christians must make careful judgments about spiritual matters. As noted in previous articles, the Lord did not forbid all judgment, rather He forbade us making unfair judgments based on innuendo, lies, faulty or incomplete information, double standards or unfair comparisons. There are times, though, when to be faithful to the Lord we must make wise judgments based upon the sum and substance of God's Holy Word.

When such times of "righteous judgment" (Jn. 7:24) are called for, faithful men and women of God must not compromise with Satan. Sadly, in America today, we are living in a culture of compromise. However, Christians must not let false doctrine or practice nor any sort of spiritual error sway us from doing what we know is right. The Lord's Word gives ample warning about the cowardice of compromise. We are to "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness" (Eph. 5:11). We must not love worldly things (1 Jn. 2:15-17).

It takes courage to stand up for what the Bible says is right and against what the Bible says is wrong. Granted, there are times when compromise on **matters of opinion** is required in order to maintain and promote peace and unity. However we must never compromise on matters of faith or doctrine. If God's Word stipulates some choice or course of action, then the matter is settled in heaven (Ps. 119:89). When God has spoken (Heb. 11:1-2), there is no further discussion about man's point of view. We either do what God said to do, or we disobey God, cut and dried. However, some things are not stipulated in the Bible by direct command, approved binding example, or necessary inference. When that is the case, man is free to exercise his own judgment about the matter, in accordance with the best spiritual wisdom we can muster.

Let us be very careful in determining the difference between matters of opinion and matters of doctrine. It is important that we understand how such distinction is made (read Rms. 14:1-23 & 1 Cor.8:1-13). When it truly is a matter of opinion, God has given us the freedom to judge for ourselves the best way to proceed. When we are free to judge for ourselves, let us exercise great caution that our liberty in Christ not become a license to compromise with evil or error (1 Cor. 8:9, Gal. 5:13).

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