

Date: Oct. 21st, 2009

Reading: II Thessalonians



What right do we have to judge our brother? Didn't Jesus say not to judge lest we be judged. Paul wrote in **2Th 3:14** *And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.* I think we can determine by looking at both Jesus statements about judging and Paul's that Jesus was not talking about judging according to the scriptures but according to our own views.

Paul is saying we have an obligation to determine when a brother or sister is walking in the wrong path and to discipline them in order to make them ashamed. If I ever walk disorderly I hope all of you have enough love for me to make me ashamed of my actions and repent. It is not the easy path but is the one required by love.

Paul has more to say about how to treat this erring brother.

God bless the readers.

David Williams

Date: April 5, 2010

Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1-3

The church in Thessalonica was a source of joy to Paul. He thanked God for their faith and love for one another in the midst of their persecutions (1:3-4). They looked forward to the righteous judgment of God, in which the righteous would receive rest and the wicked (those who do not know God/do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ) would be punished (1:6-9).

Paul desired that they not be deceived concerning the final coming of Jesus. He reminded them of the things he had told them while he was present with them (2:5). The day of the Lord would be preceded by a falling away and the revealing of the man of sin (2:3). If they did not have a love of the truth (2:10), they could be deluded (2:11-12). Paul exhorted them to hold fast to what had been delivered to them (2:15).

In spite of the teaching they had received, some were not walking in accordance with the teaching (tradition) they had received from Paul (3:6). Central to their disorderly conduct was the decision to not work, giving them time to be busybodies (3:11). These brethren were ignoring the example of Paul and what it inferred (3:7-9), as well as a direct command (3:10). The result of disorderly conduct was withdrawal/not keeping company with the sinning brother (3:6,14). What was the goal of this discipline? It was to exhort (3:12), shame (3:14), and admonish (3:15) the brother.

Let us commit to “standing fast and holding the traditions that were taught, whether by word or our epistle.” (2:15)

Tim