



Electing A Judge

As election day nears there is much discussion and concern about the fate of the nation over the next several years with the quality of individuals who are chosen to fill a variety of offices from president to local officials. One area of interest is the effect the elections will have on the quality of judges in various courts from local jurisdictions to higher courts. Many will research the candidates who will influence the selection and relative bias of judges while on a local level the individuals aspiring to the office of judge, or to remain on the bench, present their views on a number of issues that are important to all citizens. The point of this article is not to discuss the political environment or election, but to look at the desire to find a judge that will act in accordance with the law and the greater good of all. On a spiritual level we have the ability to select a judge that will not only uphold the law but will render verdicts in a straightforward and unbiased manner. The judge that we have the ability to elect to preside over our lives of course is Christ. God's word has been revealed to us so that we know what we are to do and by what standard our life will be appraised. Christ stated, "***And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 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 12.47-48). In the physical world we seek to elect judges that will act in accordance with the attitudes and ideas that we have of what is right and wrong. In a spiritual sense there are some who do not see the word of God as a law. This contradicts what the scriptures teach. Christ told his disciples to teach all nations and specified that they were to teach them to "***...observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...***" (Matt 28.20). These commands were later referred to as the "***apostles doctrine***" (Acts 2.42), a fulfillment of the guidance of the Holy Spirit that Christ stated would be given to them (John 16.7-13). Paul refers to the "***law of Christ***" in his letter to the Galatians (Gal 6.2) which confirms that the content of the New Testament comprises a law

that we are to observe. An area of concern that many have about judges in the physical world is that of corruption. The writer of Hebrews bears out that Christ, who is also our high priest, is above such material influences. "***For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.***" (Heb 7.26-27). Christ has set the example before us and provided us with the means by which we can learn what we are to do to be pleasing to God and given us the word that will keep us faithful if we hold to it. In the physical world we look at the judicial system and see that many laws are applied in the light of the judges personal bias. Some judges have been found to be corrupt sometimes excusing themselves from abiding by the law that they are obligated to uphold. We sometimes hear of judges being swayed by social and political pressures or special interests that conflict with the best interests of the public. At other times there is disregard for certain principles that should be applied to uphold the legal protections of citizens in various social, ethnic and economic groups. Christ has delivered his word, the final revelation of which was recorded by faithful stewards in the form that we know of as the Bible. We have the ability to decide how we are to be judged and have ample warnings of the negative consequences for neglecting this. The scriptures reveal that these commands are binding on all of mankind (Acts 17.30) and we shall all give an account of the things that we have done in the flesh (2 Cor 5.10). Faced with the most critical election of our lives, the choice is clear, as are the consequences for our choices, both good and bad.