

DO NOT JUDGE

GALATIANS 5:22,23

INTRODUCTION:

1. According to Jesus, you and I have no right to judge.
2. Four times, we are told not to judge another.

I. DO NOT JUDGE BY APPEARANCE

- A. **JOHN 7.24:** *“Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”*
1. Appearance (opsis): From which we get optics. We are not to judge based solely on what we see.
 2. We are commanded to judge on the basis of what is right.
- B. Instead of condemning someone based on what we see, some investigation will go a long way. (Prov. 18.13)

II. DO NOT JUDGE IN MATTERS OF OPINION

- A. In matters of judgment, we can treat one another in one of three ways. (Rom. 14.1-3)
1. We can despise one another. (v. 3)
 2. We can judge one another. (v. 3)
 3. We can receive one another. (v. 3)
- B. We cannot condemn another because of a different opinion.

III. DO NOT JUDGE BY SPEAKING EVIL

- A. **JAMES 4.11:** *“He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law.”*
- B. Speak evil (katalaleo): Literally, to speak down. It means to cast someone down by your words. Insult.
- C. We cannot judge by speaking evil. (Matt. 5.21,22)

IV. DO NOT JUDGE HYPOCRITICALLY

- A. **Matthew 7.1,2:** We are judged by the way we judge.
- B. **Matthew 7.3,4:** We judge when we are guilty ourselves.
- C. **Matthew 7.5:** We are to judge, but not hypocritically.

CONCLUSION: Are you not glad that God judges righteously?

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
2424 McCARRAN ST.
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89030
(702) 642-3141 **WWW.NLVCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM**

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. † North Las Vegas, NV † 89030
Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: pruittl@nlvchurchofchrist.com
Watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com
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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

August 23, 2026

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

Evidence Based Faith

Bible faith is not believing in something when common sense says otherwise. It is believing in something because the evidence supports it. God never expects us just to believe. He provides evidence.

The evidence of creation. We believe in God because the creation is evidence of a Creator. The psalmist wrote, *“The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.”* (Ps. 19.1). The universe shows design and purpose that could not happen by accident. Life can only come from life. The evidence points to a Creator, not an accident.

The evidence of Jesus. Jesus told those who did not believe, *“believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me”* (John 10.38). The entire book of John documents seven miracles of Jesus. At the end of the book, John wrote that *“these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”* (John 20.30,31).

The evidence of the Bible. How do we know that the writers of the New Testament were speaking the very words of God? Moses asked a similar question when God sent him to Pharaoh. He asked, *“What if they don’t believe me?”* (Ex. 4.1). God gave him a set of miracles to perform that would provide evidence that God sent him. In like manner, the inspired writers were given the ability to perform miracles to prove that they spoke the words of God (Heb. 2.4; Acts 2.43).

So why do we believe? Because the evidence supports our faith. We now must decide what to do with that faith (Heb. 11.8). CLP

FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLY

HEBREWS 10:25

INTRODUCTION:

1. We have created a problem with attendance when we make it an obligation instead of an opportunity.
2. **Psalm 147.1:** *“Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; For it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.”*

I. WHAT IS WORSHIP ALL ABOUT?

- A. Worship is about expressing our feelings to God.
 1. **John 4.23:** *“the Father is seeking such to worship Him”*
 2. Worship (proskyneo): To kiss toward.
- B. What is worship all about? (John 4.23; Ps. 57.1-11)
 1. **Psalm 57.5,11:** *“Be exalted, O God”* (cf. Isa. 57.15)
 2. Worship is the expression of the heart. (Ps. 57.1,4,6,7)
 3. Worship is an expression to God (Ps. 57.1,2,5,7,9)
 4. Worship is an expression of thanksgiving. (Ps. 57.9)

II. WHAT IS THE ASSEMBLY ALL ABOUT?

- A. The Old Testament sacrifices were ineffective.
 1. **Hebrews 10.1:** There was no perfection.
 2. **Hebrews 10.2:** There was no purification.
 3. **Hebrews 10.3:** There was no remission. (cf. Eph. 1.7)
- B. The sacrifice of Christ was effective.
 1. **Hebrews 10.14:** There is perfection.
 2. **Hebrews 10.14:** There is purification.
 3. **Hebrews 10.18:** There is remission.
- C. Because of Jesus, three things we are to do.
 1. **Hebrews 10.22:** *“let us draw near”*
 2. **Hebrews 10.23:** *“let us hold fast the hope”*
 3. **Hebrews 10.24:** *“let us consider one another”*
 4. How? By not forsaking the assembly. (Heb. 10.25)

III. WHY WE CAN'T GET PEOPLE TO ASSEMBLE

- A. We need to rethink our purpose.
 1. **1 Peter 2.5:** We offer spiritual sacrifices.
 2. We come together to glorify God.
- B. We need to rethink our worship. (Heb. 10.13)

CONCLUSION: We come to worship to be with God.

Where did Jesus Go When He Died?

There is so much confusion about what happens when you die. Do you go to heaven? Do you remain in a state of sleep in the grave? What happens when you die? To answer that question, we might consider the example of Jesus. When Jesus was suffering on the cross and finally *“breathed His last”* (Luke 23.46), where did Jesus go?

He did not go to the grave. In the last days of His life, Jesus repeatedly predicted His death. He told His disciples that *“the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death”* (Matt. 20.18). But what is death? In every case of the word, it describes some kind of separation. In the case of physical death, it is the separation of body and soul (James 2.26). So when Jesus died, He was separated from His body. It is true that His body was buried in Joseph's tomb. But Jesus, Himself, was not in His body.

He did not go to heaven. Did you know that Jesus actually said where He was going when He died? He told the thief on the cross, *“Today, you will be with Me in Paradise”* (Luke 23.43). Many read this and assume that Paradise is a reference to heaven. Therefore when Jesus died, He went to heaven. However, after Jesus was resurrected from the dead three days later, He told Mary, *“Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father”* (John 20.18). In fact, Jesus would spend forty days with His disciples before He ascended into heaven (Acts 1.3,9-11).

Jesus went to Paradise. As Jesus said to the thief on the cross, He would be in Paradise. But where is Paradise? In Acts 2, Peter preaches about Jesus. In verses 24-32, Peter preaches about the resurrection of Christ. In his sermon, he quotes David who said, *“For You will not leave my soul in Hades”* (Acts 2.27). Jesus said He would be in Paradise. Peter says that Jesus was in Hades. Put it together, and we learn that Paradise is Hades. In fact, Luke 16 tells us that there are two parts of Hades. There is the part of Hades that provides great comfort known as Abraham's bosom (Luke 16.22). And there is the part of Hades known as the place of torment (Luke 16.23).

When we die, we do not remain within our bodies. Our bodies are buried or cremated, but we have been separated from our bodies. We do not go directly to our eternal home. When we die, we go to Hades, the place of disembodied spirits where we wait for the coming of Christ and the resurrection. It is after the resurrection that we will stand before the judgment seat of Christ in our resurrected, spiritual bodies where we will be told our eternal destination. Heaven for the faithful Christian. Hell for everyone else (Rev. 20.11-15).

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