

Scoffer

Invocation

Psalms 1:1 Blessed *is* the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor associates with sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. **2** But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord; and in his law does he meditate day and night.

Eccl 5:2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter *anything* before God: for God *is* in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

Responsive Reading Mat 7:1-5

Scoffer

A scoffer is someone who is not only critical but also is foolish. What seems interesting is that people see in others, what is wrong in themselves, because God's Spirit is convicting them of things that they need to change but for whatever reason they haven't changed yet. They know it is wrong but they are doing it anyway. Down in their heart they don't want to change. They need to be born again, so they want to do right.

Prov 9:7-8 He that reproves a scorner gets to himself shame: and he that rebukes a wicked *man gets* himself a blot. **8** Reprove not a scorner, unless he hates you: rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.

Prov 21:**24** Proud *and* haughty scorner *is* his name, who deals in proud wrath.

Prov 22:**10** Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yes, strife and reproach shall cease. Scorners bring in a spirit of contention. This is why the Bible says don't be a scorner.

Psalms 1:1 Blessed *is* the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor associates with sinners, nor sits in the **seat of the scornful**. **2** But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord; and in his law does he meditate day and night. **3** And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper.

God has His blessings on people who study His word and walk in His ways. This text is found in the end of the Sermon on the Mount, it is Jesus speaking, Matt 7:**1** Judge not, that you be not judged. **2** For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged: and with what measure you pass out, it shall be measured to you again.

Jesus wants us to also be forgiving, it is the spirit of Heaven.

I have heard people say, We should never judge but in, The Apostle Paul says in;

1 Cor 6:2-3 Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? **3** Don't you know that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

For us to make a righteous judgment, we need all the facts. The day will come when the books will be opened and we will see the hearts of men and their true actions and we will be able to understand why some people are lost and others saved.

In this text Peter is talking about Jesus, after He died on the cross, 1 Peter 3:19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; **20** Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

Rev 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. **4** And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth:

When the Devil was cast out of Heaven, along with him was a third of the angels. There were, at the time of the flood, some of these angels who decided that they had made the wrong choice in following the Devil but they had sinned and could not return to Heaven. They had to stay out of the conflict, on the bench, if you will, until it is over. When Jesus died for sin, it included the sin of angels also. Wherever they are, Jesus went to them with salvation, after He died on the cross. These will be the angels that we will judge.

For us to understand right and wrong is our place but we need to be careful how we judge others because we don't always have all the facts. There have been times in my life when I saw someone do something and I told myself, I wouldn't do that, only to see myself do the same thing a couple weeks later.

Eccl 5:2 Be not rash with your mouth, and let not your heart be hasty to utter *anything* before God: for God *is* in heaven, and you are upon earth: therefore, **let your words be few.**

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, **It is God who works in our lives to make us the kind of people He wants us to be.** It is **not** up to us to change the lives of others. God won't force His way on us, we have to be free to choose. God is working in our lives to help us see what He wants us to change. He knows when we are ready.

Years ago, not long after I had become a Christian, I became very critical of other Christians. I was gung-ho to do everything right and I couldn't understand why others weren't the same way. I was gaging everyone else's Christian experience on mine. I could see the worldliness in others actions and it didn't seem right to me. The truth is it wasn't right but it wasn't my place to criticize. God was working with them. We are all paintings on God's easel and He is not finished with us yet. We can work for God like the Devil and chase people away from Him by being critical. If we are being critical, our focus is in the wrong place, we are looking at others rather than at ourselves.

The words of Jesus, Matt 7:1 Judge not, that you be not judged. **2** For with what judgment you judge, you shall be judged: and with what measure you pass out, it shall be measured to you again. **3** And why do you see the mote that is in your brother's eye, but consider not the beam that is in your own eye? **4** Or how will you say to your brother, Let me pull out the mote out of your eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in your own eye? **5** You hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of your own eye; and then you shall see clearly to cast out the mote out of your brother's eye.

We need to be at peace with God in our own lives first before we can help others. The spirit of criticism is sitting in the seat of the scorner, it is the Devil's chair.

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

The Devil wants us on his side. He wants us to take up a critical spirit and lash out at God's people but God's way is love, patience, peace and joy and unity. We need to focus on our own life and the things that we do for others.

James 5:16 and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

James 5:19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; **20** Let him know, that he which converts the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

James has the right idea, if someone is doing wrong, it is our place to pray for them and help them find God and the right way to live, it is to be helpful not critical.

In closing, being critical of others is the wrong spirit. It is sitting in the seat of the scornful, the Devil's chair. The Devil is the accuser of the brethren, not us. We are all God's workmanship. He is the one who changes and molds us. If we are seeing the faults in others, we need to shift our focus to ourselves and see what we are doing wrong. We need to pray for the erring ones.

We will be the ones who will judge the world and angels but that will be when all the books are opened and we see everything. It is not our place to judge other people's Christian life by ours. Here is the key in a nut shell, God will not force His way on anyone, we have to want the change and God knows when that time is. He is eternally patient with us, Praise His Name.