

Jim Martin
P.O. Box 291962
Dayton, Ohio 45429

May 2022 “GOD IS JUDGING”

Dear Friends,

For over 40 years I have been living for God. In the early years I still had a lot of attitudes and behaviors which needed to be purged; but as I continued pressing into Him, those things started being removed from my life. I do not claim to be a fully mature Christian, but I am much further along than I was at the beginning. This is why I now understand that there are no valid excuses for a Christian to justify continuing to live with anything God has said we are to mortify out of our lives. The born-again life we have received from Him is the power we need to say “No” to every form of temptation, no matter what it is.

During the past four-plus decades I have seen and heard a lot of foolishness among Christians, including preachers. Here are a few examples:

- A preacher was conducting services in a church one summer and during one evening service he got hot and very sweaty. The weather changed throughout the evening, becoming very cool and breezy. After the service, someone suggested he put on a coat. He said “No, God will protect me.” He ended up getting pneumonia and died.
- There are Christians who have asked, “If a Christian has a heart transplant, and the donor was not saved, will the recipient have to get born again all over?”
- During a sermon, a preacher once said, "You can take my wife and take my kids, but don't take my pulpit."
- Another preacher stated, “Moses wouldn’t have died if God hadn’t killed him.”
- A preacher had been taught that if a Christian watches television, demons will come out of the TV and climb into the individual. So, to avoid being possessed by devils while watching television in a hotel room, he would sit with his back to the TV and watch the image in a mirror hanging on the wall.
- A man and woman, both Christians and single, were involved intimately. When their pastor found out, he met with them to try and get them restored in their walk with God. They justified their behavior by explaining that after their time of intimacy, they would sit up in bed and pray in tongues for a while.
- A pastor had faithfully served in his church for several years. Some people in the church put money together so he and his family could take a nice vacation. When the pastor returned home, he discovered the church had voted him out, had elected a new pastor, had removed all his family’s belongings from the parsonage and refused to tell him where it was all being stored.

- A well-known pastor, with a reputation for being an outstanding teacher of the Bible, received a letter from someone telling him he used too much scripture in his sermons.

Yes, some of these stories are so bizarre it can seem hard to believe they actually happened. But they are all true, and such stories are in abundance throughout the Body of Christ. What makes this really bad is that all these events involve people who have been Christians for several years.

Many Christians today are believing God for a major outpouring of His Spirit, which will result in a massive, end-time revival. It's challenging enough to be engaged in spiritual warfare to receive such an outpouring, but behaviors and teachings like those mentioned actually present an additional roadblock to revival.

Amos 3:3 states, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Do you realize what a hindrance it is to revival when such foolishness is going on in churches? God wants the lost to hear the message of salvation; then after they are born again, He wants them disciplined to become fully mature Believers. People teaching flaky and unscriptural doctrine are not in agreement with God. Do you honestly believe He wants to send new converts to such churches?

An itinerant minister wanted to preach in the church I pastor. During our conversation, he shared that he doesn't forgive people if he doesn't want to. Furthermore, he said he teaches people they don't have to forgive. I was shocked! Some of the most powerful and terrifying warnings God has given in the Bible concern Christians who refuse to forgive. Can you even begin to imagine the extreme damage he has done to new converts and immature Christians? (In case you're wondering, he has never preached in our church.)

Two of the most destructive viewpoints in the church today are:

- "Let's just agree to disagree. You see it your way and I see it mine."
- "As long as they preach Jesus, that's all that matters."

Each is a direct violation of what God has established in the Bible.

"Let's just agree to disagree. You see it your way and I see it mine."

Seriously? What about Amos 3:3? What about Psalm 133?

¹Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! ²It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; ³As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

What about 2 Peter 1:20-21?

²⁰Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ²¹For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

The word “prophecy” in the above verses comes from the Greek word, “prophēteia” and it means (1) a foretelling of future events, and (2) a declaration of the mind and will of God. In other words, there is no such thing as “I believe it my way and you believe it yours.” Do you honestly think that God would use the Bible to instruct some Christians that speaking in tongues, or healing, or miracles are not for today, then turn around and use the Bible to tell other Christians all those things are available? God is not double-minded, yet there is a plethora of double-minded doctrine in the Church.

When it comes to the Bible, the first person with whom we must be in agreement is God. All of this doctrinal diversity is a result of one thing and one thing only: a refusal by Christians to study to show themselves approved unto God, rightly dividing the word of truth. Preachers are especially guilty of this. In James chapter three God makes it clear that those who teach His word will stand before Him in greater judgment because what they teach can set the hearers on the path of truth or on the path of error.

I have ministered in Kenya on three separate occasions, teaching as much as 17 times in a single week. Numerous pastors and evangelists have been in attendance during each trip. My style of teaching tends to be very deliberate and line-upon-line. I would break down scripture, explaining in detail what God is saying. I made it very clear that all of my teachings are available for free at our website, and that we would send them teachings if they desired. In spite of this, after returning home I have seen social media posts by some of the ministers in attendance describing the next conference they were planning to attend, conferences wherein I knew what was going to be taught would contradict the foundation I had laid and built upon. I had to battle feelings that I wasted my time and God’s money going on those trips.

When Christians study God’s Word in the manner described in 2 Timothy 2:15, and involve the Holy Spirit in their study, there will always come a time when unity is established between the individual and God. This ultimately results in unity among Believers concerning what is taught.

“As long as they preach Jesus, that’s all that matters.”

I admit, I must suppress anger when I hear such a statement. There is nothing anywhere in the Bible supporting that statement. Consider the following passages of scripture:

¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:19-20)

¹⁹Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; ²⁰And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; ²¹In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: ²²In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

¹⁵For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. ¹⁶Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. ¹⁷For this cause have I sent unto you

Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church. (1 Corinthians 4:15-17)

¹Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

Yes, we need to preach Jesus...but it is impossible to make disciples if we do not also teach the depths of what God has given in the Bible. Jesus is the Cornerstone; the writers of the New Testament received from the Cornerstone and delivered what He wanted taught. We cannot grow spiritually without the fullness of God's Word.

²⁵Now to him that is of power to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, ²⁶But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: (Romans 16:25-26)

The word "establish" in verse 25 is from the Greek word *stērízō* and it means "set fast, established permanently, stands fixed, as in strengthened unto complete stability." Both Jesus and the entirety of the New Testament gospel are required to be taught and received in order for God to truly be able to work in us according to His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

Preaching Jesus will indeed get people born again; but it requires the entire Bible to make a Christian a disciple.

¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Do we really want an outpouring and revival?

It's almost as if some Christians believe there will be a world-shaking revival no matter what is preached and taught; that it is not important to stay true to scripture and unnecessary to live a holy life as God has required. But I want to make something very clear: end-time prophecy is rapidly being fulfilled right before our eyes; the outpouring we're seeking will never happen – **NEVER** – in churches where compromise to truth is tolerated. Throughout the New Testament, the Apostle Paul warned churches to avoid anyone who taught anything not established and taught by Jesus and the apostles. This would include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, and all other members of the Body of Christ.

For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?
(1 Peter 4:17)

Whether you realize it or not, the judgment spoken of is taking place **RIGHT NOW**, and is increasing. Several years ago, the Holy Spirit gave a prophecy in our church that the sins of ministers would be increasingly exposed publicly and that churches would start closing. This has

been happening more and more. God also prophesied there would be a “revival of doctrine” rising within the Church. That meant there would be a return to the uncompromising truth exactly as it is revealed in scripture. This, too, has been taking place, and it has resulted in a type of spiritual conflict as the anointing of the truth being taught is exposing the fallacy of the doctrinal errors that have been so prominent. This is fulfilling another prophecy given by the Lord that a civil war within the Church was arising; Christians who refuse to embrace truth are criticizing those who are hungry for and receiving the uncompromising fullness of God’s Word.

God has given His children years to repent of their rebellion, sin and error, just as He did with Israel under the Law. But just as judgment eventually came upon Israel because they refused to repent, the same is happening in the Church today. Jesus is returning for a church that is holy, unblamable, unreprouvable, without spot, blemish or wrinkle (Ephesians 5:27, Colossians 1:22). The only way we can be ready for the latter-day outpouring and revival, as well as His return, is to get the sin out of our lives and embrace truth no matter what the cost.

Is this too much to ask? Absolutely not, because we can do all things through Christ which strengthens us! Praise His Holy Name!

In His Grace,



P.S.: I have a special sermon which flows perfectly with this letter. It is titled, *Do You Want Truth Or Not?* and you can order a CD of this sermon by using the form below.

_____ Check here to receive a CD of the sermon, *Do You Want Truth Or Not?*.

[PLEASE PRINT]

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Country _____

Email _____

If you would like to make a donation to this ministry, make checks payable to “Jim Martin Ministries” or use the ‘Make a Donation’ feature at our website to give through PayPal.

JIM MARTIN MINISTRIES
P.O. Box 291962 • Dayton, Ohio 45429 • USA
www.jmmgrace.com • PastorJimGCC@gmail.com