



Little River
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
Serving The Church. Serving The Kingdom.

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August 2024 Edition

Should You Be the Judge?

“Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged:” (Matthew 7:1-2)

“Judge not, that you be not judged.” (v.1) The word for **judge** is the Greek word “*krino*,” a word which has twelve different shades of meaning. It can mean to *choose*, to *separate*, to *determine*, to *adjudicate*. But sometimes it means to condemn in a critical fashion. That is the meaning of the word in **Matthew 7:1**.

Election year politics is a brutal time in our country. It seems every commercial has something bad to say about the other candidate, and just the change in the music playing during the commercial, lets you know that their candidate is better. We are encouraged to judge this other candidate by what they tell us he/she stands for. Of course, all the bad things they say about the other candidate is quickly deemed “misinformation.”

Jewish Rabbis in Jesus day taught that there were six great works that brought a man credit in this world and profit in the world to come: “study, visiting the sick, hospitality, devotion in prayer, the education of children in the law, and thinking the best of other people.”

Pastors and church leaders know a little about this topic as well. In his book ***“Men Sent from God,”*** Richard DeHaan lists some of the criticisms pastors receive. *“If the pastor is young, they say he lacks experience. If his hair is gray, he is too old for the young people. If he has five or six children, he is irresponsible; if he has no children, he is setting a bad example. If he uses a lot of illustrations, he neglects the Bible; if he does not use enough, he is not relevant. If he condemns wrong deeds, he's cranky; if he does not, he's compromising. If he drives an old car, he shames his congregation; if he drives a new one, he's setting his affection on earthly things and living above his means.”*

DeHaan's point is that criticism is part and parcel of the public life of the ministry. In fact, criticism is part of living, period. You cannot do anything without being criticized by someone-whether you are selling newspapers, knitting a sweater, working your farm, or mowing your lawn. The ever-present fact is, people are by nature critical and condemning.

Someone said, *“There are only 3 ways people will not criticize or talk about you; if you DO nothing, SAY nothing, or HAVE nothing. Otherwise, prepare yourself, because someone is talking about you.”*

When it comes to calling a pastor, I am often reminded of the story about one young man that was struggling to find the perfect prospective wife his mother would approve of. Every time he brought a prospect home, his mother criticized her unmercifully. The young man was at his wit's end when a friend offered this advice: “Find someone like your mother.” Sounds like good advice, right? So, he looked and looked until he found a clone. She looked like his mother, she walked like his mother's, she talked like his mother, and she even thought like his mother. It was amazing! So, he took her home. The next time he saw the friend who had given the advice and was asked how his mother liked the girl, the young bachelor answered, *“It went great. My mother loved her, but my father couldn't stand her.”*

It's difficult in our present time to pick-up a newspaper or watch or listen to the news these days, and not hear a critical, condemning, chastising spirit coming from the speaker or writer. The media, our social relationships, our schooling, and our work situations are immersed in it. However, the greatest tragedy is that the church of Jesus Christ is itself full of those who make a habit of criticism and condemnation. I'm convinced that many believe that criticism is their spiritual gift, because they do it so well.

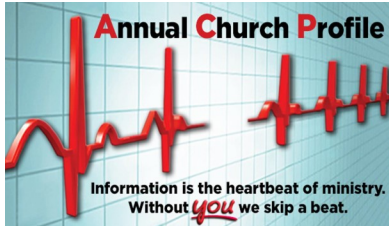
There are far too many critics of people who serve in the church, from people who don't serve. If you feel you could do better... you should do so. To drive the point of how foolish a critical attitude can be, Jesus gave an illustration - vv. 3-4. With words, Jesus pictured the action a critical spirit causes. Imagine the foolishness of a man with a beam or log in his eye trying to remove a splinter from another's eye!

We are seldom aware of the struggles others are facing in this life. As my grandmother use to say, *“Walk a mile in someone else's shoes and you might have a different perspective.”*

In Christ Service,
Bro. Bobby

August Calendar of Events

- 5– Executive Team Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 5– Mission Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 11– LRBA Youth Kickball Night (Complex) 5:00 p.m.



2024 ANNUAL CHURCH PROFILE Due September 9th

The KBC has sent a letter to each church with guidelines to complete the Annual Church Profile (ACP) electronically. You have the option of completing electronically or by submitting your paper form to the associational office. ACP paper forms will be handed out at the August Mission Board Meeting to each church. If your church is not in attendance, packets will be mailed to the ACP contact. Unser names and passwords are included on the form if you choose to submit electronically, or I will be happy to submit for you. The ACP is very important. It helps your church to keep track of the health and history of your church. The ACP must be completed no later than September 9th. As always I will be glad to assist you as well as answer any questions you may have. Please don't hesitate to call me at (270) 522-7066. Thanks! Shari

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JULY

Church	Regular	Special
Bethany	0	
Blue Spring	2,412.18	861.00
Buffalo	0	
Cadiz	1,655.65	
Canton	855.25	250.00
Cerulean	649.00	
Crossroads	200.00	
Delmont	286.27	
Donaldson Creek	789.75	1,000.00
East Cadiz	766.48	
Hurricane	400.00	
Liberty Point	1,019.43	
Locust Grove	942.00	1,240.00
Maple Grove	400.00	440.00
New Hope	0	40.00
New Jerusalem	0	
New Light	50.00	40.00
Oak Grove	590.33	
Ponderosa	513.52	
Rock Front	400.00	
Rocky Ridge	639.00	
South Union	356.60	
Wallonia	0	
Misc. Income	200.00	1,612.00
Total	13,125.46	5,483.00
		18,608.46

Interest NOW Acc.	2.31	
Deaf Ministry		250.00
Mev Fredenburg Fund		5,233.00

Subtotals	13,127.77	5,483.00
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Total income		\$18,610.77
Monthly expense		\$26,404.81

Regular Fund		
Beginning Balance		25,771.95
Interest Received		2.31
Gifts		13,147.46
Trans– Contingency Fund		(100.00)
Trans– Van Replacement Fund		
Trans– Building Maintenance Fund		(100.00)
Trans– Mev Fredenburg Fund		
Expense Checks Written		(11,576.90)
Ending Balance		\$27,144.82

Treasurer: Louise Fuller 7/25/24

Little River Baptist Association will again be a collection point for the KBC Christmas Backpacks. To register and for packing information please go to:



www.kybaptist.org/christmas backpacks

All backpacks should be delivered to the Baptist Center the week of October 21-25. Backpacks must be marked with appropriate color ribbons to indicate age and size. Be sure to pack in medium size moving boxes before delivering. The boxes will then be transported to the regional site the following week. Thank you for you participation!

“Let’s not neglect to do good and share what we have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Hebrews 13:16

Happy Birthday

Debra Hardy– 8/15
Norman Cotton– 8/20
Cody Choate– 8/28