

"OUR CONFIRMATION HEARINGS"

Daniel 7:22... *"and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the Kingdom..."*

No doubt all over the world, but especially here in the United States, it seems that the public at large has acquired a very unusual, and, shall we say, somewhat *abnormal* interest in the subject of judgment. In case you haven't noticed over the past few years, there has been a steady increase in the ratings of both locally broadcasted and nationally televised court proceedings, to the point that many of the characters involved have become as popular as soap opera stars, and in some cases, otherwise average and ordinary judges have even been elevated to celebrity status by the media. The wrangling back and forth of prosecution and defense, their twisting, turning, and manipulation of witnesses, and their many theatrical exhibitions and presentations, have turned this into one of the fastest growing sports in the world! While we will have to admit that a great many people have learned something from the legal aspect in all of this (though we dare say that one will never come to understand true judgment simply by studying "the trial of the century", or by watching Judge Wapner's court), we believe the main lesson has been that even at best, the present system of judgment is faulty. (This message is obviously coming through loud and clear. According to a recent poll taken by *U.S. News & World Report*, a whopping 85% of Americans feel that there *is* a serious inequality of judgment in our courts). Regardless of the judicious genius of the judge, the fact remains that they are oftentimes deceived, and justice fails to be served. Every day, criminals still avoid conviction because of their seemingly "honest" demeanors, their "slick" lawyers, or some legal technicality. Corrupt judges or district attorneys, who are routinely paid off for judicial "favours" have become commonplace; and quite often, innocent people go to prison because of the testimony of false witnesses and/or evidence. And as you well may know, even jury cases can end up with wrong verdicts, depending on the way that information is presented to it's members, or because of social, racial, or political implications. Yet, with all of it's weaknesses, with all of it's mistakes, folks are still intrigued by the entire process; they cannot seem to get enough of it!

Strangely enough, we believe that God is somehow behind this peculiar phenomena. It is our persuasion that He is responsible for generating this public interest (though not necessarily for the way it affects certain people)! And why? Because He is preparing this world for a new order of judgment; an order that shall be unlike anything it has seen before! He is about to introduce the most unusual body of judges ever to stand upon this earth, who have been specially prepared for such a time as this! The difference with them will be that they will not make their judgments according to "the seeing of the eyes, or the hearing of the ears" (that is, by external evidence, or the witness of the senses), and they will not make rulings based on personal advantage or favoritism, but will judge with righteous judgment! This, and this alone, is what the whole creation is earnestly groaning for (Rom. 8:19); and this, alone, will cause it to rejoice!

CONFIRMED...AND BEING CONFIRMED

Recently, while reading through the opening lines of I Corinthians for a study we have been developing, the Lord quickened something to our spirits, which we would briefly like to share with you. It is found in the first chapter, verses 4-9:

*"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; that in everything ye are enriched by Him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; even as **the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you**: so that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: who will also confirm you **unto the end**, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom ye were called into the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord".*

Without going into great detail or background on this passage, we would have you to notice two things: first, the fact that the testimony, or witness of Christ has already been confirmed in us (which allows us to make certain judgments as the Spirit enables); and secondly, that we are now going through what we could rightly term as a *confirmation process*, which shall be fulfilled by the end of this present age. In other words, we might say that at the moment, because we have received the indwelling Spirit of Christ, we have already been confirmed "in part" to a certain place of judgment prepared for us (in the "gift" realm of utterance and knowledge); but there is coming an hour (which we feel is nigh upon us), when we shall be *finally and completely confirmed in* our calling, and irrevocably established in our positions in Him! Another way we could say this is that currently, we are seated together in heavenly places in Christ (Eph. 2:6); and as such, we have been designated limited jurisdiction in the various affairs of life, as the Spirit gives us understanding and utterance. But then, we shall sit down with Him in His throne, where we shall have absolute authority over every area of God's vast creation (Rev. 3:21)! At such a time, we shall be perfectly qualified to fulfill the ministry God has reserved for us from the foundation of the world, viz., the ministry of judgment and reconciliation of all things! What a glorious destiny we have!

This calls to our minds an interesting allegory. In order for one to sit on the United States Supreme Court, two things have to happen. First, the individual has to be appointed by the President, and second, he or she has to be confirmed by the Congress. But how does this come about? Well, usually, the nominee will have worked his or her way up the judicial ladder, serving as Federal judge, law professor, etc., and in the process, acquired a good understanding of the way the legal system works. They will have demonstrated their ability to accurately apply the law in varying circumstances, and displayed outstanding qualities of discretion and discernment which clearly set them apart from their colleagues. Whenever a seat becomes available on the Court, these unique achievements and accreditations are brought to the attention of the President, who takes them all into consideration (most generally, his approval is based on how well the judgments and opinions of the one considered will support his own policies). Then, when once his decision is made, there is a public announcement of it. Immediately following this, the appointee enters into what is known as *confirmation hearings*, where he or she is carefully scrutinized for judgmental discrepancies, inconsistencies, or anything else that might disqualify them from the position.

If you have ever witnessed one of these hearings on T.V., you know how demanding they can be. They rarely leave one stone unturned! But why is the examination so intense? And why do they probe so deeply? Because of the seriousness of the position. It must be remembered that the decisions rendered by these judges, and their interpretations of Constitutional law can effect the lives of millions of people for a great number of years. And the tenures of Supreme Court judges are lifelong. That is to say, once they have been confirmed to the high bench, and are privileged to don the reverential black robe, they may abide as long as they live (the only stipulation is that they continue "in good behavior"). It matters not who may agree or disagree with their opinions after that; and it matters not how popular or unpopular they become; they are there for the duration!

If you have eyes enlightened by the Spirit, then surely you can see a pattern here. Is this not similar to the procedure Jesus went through? In His infancy, we know that He was confirmed in a limited capacity by the prophetic utterance of Simeon. This is when He first began His ascent up the heavenly "judicial ladder"; when He first began to acquire divine wisdom and discretion for judgment (that is, in His earthly form). This was attested to in Scripture, where it records that *"the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon Him"* (Lk. 2:40). Some time later, at twelve years of age, He gave evidence of a further confirmation, when He astounded the learned rabbis in the temple with a wisdom and judgment which far exceeded His (or their) years (verses 41-51). This was followed by another statement, *"And Jesus increased (or advanced) in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man"* (verse 52). Then, at the river Jordan, as the heavens were opened, we see that He was publicly appointed by the Father, no doubt, before crowds of witnesses on both sides of the veil. My, what a tremendous moment this must have been! It was immediately following this that He was led of the Spirit to the wilderness, where He encountered His "confirmation hearings". For forty days, He was tempted, challenged, and questioned in all points, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15). And once He had been sorely tested and tried in every area, having His motives and intentions thoroughly examined under pressure, He donned the white robe of righteousness, and came forth in the power of the Spirit! Hallelujah! From that moment on, not only did He reach the top of the ladder...HE BECAME THE LADDER (Jn. 1:51)! He represented forever more the Way by which God's holy messengers would ascend into the heavenly sphere, and retrieve revelations of righteous judgment for the inhabitants of the earth!

That God had highly exalted Him was clearly evident to those who heard Him. The wisdom of His mouth, and the judgments which He declared were obviously on a higher order, from a divine source. But if there were any doubts at all, just listen to His own testimony: *"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: that all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent Him... Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in Himself, so hath He given the Son to have life in Himself and hath given HIM authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man.. .I can of Mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and My judgment is just; because I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father*

which hath sent Me" (Jn. 5:22-23, 25-27, 30). This, dear friend, was the basis of His authority; AS HE HEARD FROM THE FATHER, HE MADE HIS DETERMINATIONS. He was completely surrendered to the will of the Spirit, and abandoned to His cause! This is why His judgments never fell to the ground! They were 100% accurate, EVERY SINGLE TIME! Because of this, men everywhere knew that He had been confirmed in His calling! Therefore, let demons rage, and the wicked wail! And let the righteous rejoice! Jesus Christ was both appointed *and* anointed as CHIEF JUSTICE...and He remains upon the Throne unto this very day! Praise God!

AN UNIMPEACHABLE STATE

Now, concerning the wilderness experience (as it pertains to us), you have no need that we should write unto you. With so much written on the subject these days, to elaborate greatly would only be redundant. We are all quite familiar with it by now, anyway. It should be apparent to all who read these lines that as Jesus gave us this example, we should follow in His steps. If in His journey to perfection He advanced from judgment to judgment, we must do the same. If He was forced to endure His confirmation hearings in the wilderness, we shall certainly do likewise, if we are to be like Him. There is no way around it; the process is inevitable. Remember, He is the Ladder to the Throne! But isn't it good to know that there is a purpose in the probing? Isn't it comforting to be reminded from time to time that all of this is not for naught? Sometimes in the press of things, we lose sight of this. Nevertheless, we can be assured that our Lord is working all things according to the counsel of His own will. He is preparing His own "Supreme Court" justices in the nitty-gritty of everyday life, that He *through them* might restore balance and equity to His troubled creation! Beloved, that should get you to movin'!

There is one last thing we will mention here; and then we will be through. Previously, we commented lightly on the fact that those who reside on the Supreme Court may do so, as long as they abide "in good behavior". This is specified in the Constitution, and is strictly enforced. However, with God's program, this stipulation is unnecessary. You see, He is dealing with the behavior problem now, before we ever reach the Throne! He is purging out every root of self-will and rebellion from our lives, before we are ever sworn in! As we learned from our passage in I Cor. 1:4-9, He shall confirm us unto the end, that we might be blameless in the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ". This word, *blameless*, carries greater weight when translated from the original. It means *unimpeachable*, and is so rendered in the Interlinear Greek-English New Testament. As most of you know, impeachment is a means by which public officials are removed from office. We derive this word in English via the French word *empêcher*, and ultimately from the Latin, *impedicare*, which means *to tie the feet together; to fetter, entangle, or ensnare*. It speaks of hindering or preventing, and was commonly associated with those terms, until perhaps the late 1700's. Anyway, we think you get the general idea. To be unimpeachable would be to enter into a state where one could not be hindered, could not be entangled or ensnared, and where one could not be removed from office. It would bespeak a realm of life "against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23); a place of perfection in nature and character that is above reproach. This, dear friends, shall be the abiding state of God's

judges! Nevermore to fall from grace, these shall comprise an unimpeachable priesthood, sealed in their positions throughout the coming ages! Glory!

Beloved, the next time you feel like the pressures are too great, or that the probings are too personal, then stop for a moment, and consider the magnitude of our calling. Consider the *permanence*. Then realize that the sufferings of this present time, during the time of our confirmation hearings, are not worthy to be compared to the glory which shall be revealed in us. God is about to change the order, and eternally institute His son-judges before long! Then, we shall understand like never before why the hearings were necessary. If we did not suffer with Him, neither could we reign with Him! For after the process is complete, we shall be used of God to judge the world of men and angels (1 Cor. 6:2-3), and provide the answers that the world is so desperately in need of! What a day of rejoicing that will be!

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