

GOD’S THREE MEASURING CUPS

by Jackson Morro

© 1998 by Christ’s Chapel
Fall River, Massachusetts

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Version of the Bible.

Printed in the United States of America
All rights reserved

Christ’s Chapel
PO Box 3182
Fall River, MA 02722

GOD’S THREE MEASURING CUPS

INTRODUCTION

The Lord Jesus Christ brings us salvation and changes our lives so that we might bear good fruit in this world; that is, that we might transform this world through our godly Christ-like actions. Jesus said, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain...” (John 15:16) Our lives and actions are important. What we do in our life on this earth is important. We are either going to be a positive force for the Lord Jesus Christ or we are going to be a negative force. We either help other people or we hurt them. We either build up or tear down. We must realize our actions are important. God Himself tells us, “Consider your ways!” (Haggai 1:5)

I remember as a young boy, I had an aunt who would often baby-sit for me. She loved to cook. I noticed she had a favorite set of old aluminum measuring cups of different sizes that fit one inside of the other. I noticed she would always use a recipe. While using the recipe, she would always take the correct size measuring cup and use each one for the right ingredient. She always ended up cooking the tastiest food I had ever eaten.

I also remember that when I was younger, my friends and I were hungry one day during summer vacation, and we decided to bake a cake. Well, we got the flour, the eggs and the milk, but we didn't use the recipe or the measuring cups. That "cake" was the sorriest thing to ever come out of an oven and it was totally inedible!

As we read the Word of God, we see that the Lord Jesus Christ taught that God has three measuring cups. In each case, the measure that we give out to others is the measure which we will receive back. In fact, we determine our own capability to receive according to the measure we give out. Simply put, we choose how much we'll receive from God by the size of the measuring cup we choose. The cup we use to pour out will be the same cup which is used to pour back to us. God has set up three important measuring cups for life. It's important that we use these cups and that we realize the size of these cups is important.

Take care and God bless you.



Pastor

September 1998

CHAPTER ONE JUDGING

The Lord Jesus Christ gave us God's first measuring cup in the Sermon on the Mount:

Do not judge lest you be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. And why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? You

hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

- Matthew 7:1-5

Jesus is telling us that we have to be extremely careful in how we judge others. God has built into His moral universe a mechanism that brings the same degree of judgment and accountability upon us that we hold others to. We have to be very careful to make sure that if we take it upon ourselves to exercise judgment on someone else, that we follow Jesus' command, "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment." (John 7:24) In reality, our judgment of another person should only be done as a last resort because a clear, blatant challenge to God's righteousness has been made.

The big danger that confronts us when we judge, is that we might only see the outward appearance whereas God alone sees the heart. A Christian who starts setting himself up as a judge of others starts walking through a spiritual minefield where he is likely to "blow himself up" somewhere along the line. An individual is rarely in a position to see the interior of another person, but only sees the exterior. Usually, a person only gets a glimpse of what is going on in the heart of another person by a special revelation from the Holy Spirit and this is usually for the purpose of praying intercessory prayer for that individual or for confronting them privately for the purpose of correction and, hopefully, restoration.

Without a proper or correct spirit, there is a very fine line between Jesus' call for proper righteous judgment and a carnal self-righteous judgment. Not only is proper Christian judgment critical to God's perfect will being accomplished, but it is also critical to the spiritual well being of the one judging: Any Christian who exercises judgment will have the same standard of judgment held against them when they come to God for answer to prayer or for the meeting of their needs.

There are two major dangers to exercising improper judgment. The first danger is the danger of self-deception. The Word of God states, "For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting in regard to himself alone, and not in regard to another." (Galatians 6:3-4) There is nothing harder for God to reach than a Christian who is locked in self-righteousness and self-deception — one who feels they are doing God's work when, in fact, they are doing just the opposite. It almost takes a "spiritual nuclear bomb" to shake loose someone who has self-

righteousness rooted in them. Sadly, this self-deception will be revealed at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Sadly, some Christians will be shedding tears when they see the loss of rewards because they exercised self-righteous judgment instead of righteous judgment. They will see where they blocked the work of God through a legalistic judgment when intercessory prayer and merciful counsel would have brought a glorious victory from God into the situation. They will see how they sowed hurt and discord into the Body of Christ and into church assemblies by judging outward appearances that had nothing to do with interior spiritual growth.

The second major danger in exercising improper judgment is that it makes it impossible for God to bless or answer prayer. Worse than that, one who judges self-righteously works themselves into a pit of oppressive spiritual misery and they lose the victory of the joy of the Lord in their life. Did you ever notice, Christians who judge self-righteously are always unhappy people who never really get the “big prayers” answered? Their testimonies are always about what a hard time the devil gave them that week when in reality, their problems are caused by their own attitude? The “measuring cup” principle in God’s Kingdom is always “The hole you give or bless through is the hole you’ll receive or be blessed through.” The self-righteous judgmental person has narrowed his “receiving hole” so much that God, who wants to bless, can’t fit a blessing into that person’s receiver no matter how He might try!

Proper Christian judgment always starts with the proper judging of ourselves. Jesus said, “You hypocrites, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.” (Matthew 7:5) It’s a wise person who says, “Before you send someone else to hell, make sure you’re not going there with them.” Having your own life in order is what lays the foundation for proper Christian judgment. Having your own life in order and clean before God will clean your heart and have it in a position where mercy and righteous judgment will flow in proper proportion. It’s always easier and more fun to judge other people than to spend that time honestly looking at ourselves. Sometimes, when we let the Holy Spirit start doing surgery on our inner man, it can get bloody when He starts cutting away things that shouldn’t be there. We’d rather “not go there.” But this is what Jesus demands of us.

With all the above warnings given about the dangers of improper judgment, it is also a fact that there is such a thing as **PROPER CHRISTIAN JUDGMENT**. Proper Christian judgment rightly judges sin and stands against sin and shines the light of God’s Truth and Holiness on the darkness

and destructiveness of sin (Ephesians 5:11) and the consequences to those who chose sin rather than salvation (Romans 6:23; Revelation 21:7-8).

CHAPTER TWO PROPER CHRISTIAN JUDGMENT

What are God's principles for proper Christian judgment? In this chapter, I plan to put before you the basic principles from the Bible that will lead you into the practice of proper Christian judgment. As you read, reread and study these principles, and they become real to your heart, God will establish you in His ways and His Truth.

1. Proper Christian judgment starts with a willingness to judge ourselves. Jesus warned that our first priority in the Christian walk is to clean our own lives up. "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." (Matthew 7:5) Judging ourselves is more than a command from Jesus; it is a privilege. We read in the Word of God, "But if we judged ourselves rightly, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined (corrected) by the Lord in order that we may not be condemned along with the world." (1 Corinthians 11:31-32) In other words, if we are willing to examine ourselves NOW and acknowledge before God that we need His help in an area of life and want it corrected, it will never be brought up at the judgment seat of Christ, because we have properly dealt with it NOW. Furthermore, our Lord will help us correct those matters in our life with His power and also His mercy will cover those slips and falls that come through our weakness and we will not suffer loss of reward.

2. Proper Christian judgment does take a clear stand against sin and never approves of unrighteousness. In the great "Love Chapter" in 1 Corinthians 13, the Apostle Paul writes that love "does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth." (1 Corinthians 13:6) The standard for condemning sin is that sin is always a spiritual crime against God's two great commandments of love. Sin is a crime against the love of God, for it offends His loving Holiness – sin nailed Jesus to the cross. Sin always leads to the death of the sinner (Romans 6:23; James 1:15) and brings hurt and harm to the one sinned against. Love demands that a Christian always takes a clear stand against sin and never approves of any unrighteousness. The

bold, anointed, uncompromised preaching of the Word of God is the strongest judgment anyone can bring upon sin.

3. Proper Christian judgment always sees the sinner as a precious human being that Jesus Christ willingly died for. It may be difficult for some Christians to swallow, but God loves the prostitute lost in her sin, He loves the drug addict, He loves the homosexual dying of AIDS, and He loves the soldiers who drove the nails into the hands and feet of His Son as much as He loves the most devoted of His saints. That's difficult for some Christians to accept but it's true. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) The difference between a Christian and an unsaved person is that the Christian is now actively drawing on the benefits of God's love and the benefits of salvation that Jesus purchased for them on the cross, while the unsaved are still walking around spiritually dead, bound for eternal separation from God in hell, and leaving the salvation Jesus already bought for them unused in Heaven's Bank Account.

4. Proper Christian judgment always sees prayer as the first and primary tool for correcting another person. We will always know that our motive is pure when we have judged another if our first response is to go to God in prayer for that person. We cannot say we have a right motive in judging any other person unless we are first willing to use some of our precious time praying (and even fasting) for that person.

5. Proper Christian judgment always regrets that it has to confront another person. Notice, I did not say it is afraid to confront. It is sorry it has to confront another person about a sinful matter. The Apostle Paul had to confront a case of gross immorality that had taken root in the Corinthian church. He boldly confronted the issue (read 1 Corinthians 5). Once the issue had been dealt with and the Corinthians had put the offenders out of the church, the sinners truly repented. Paul then told the Corinthians to immediately restore the repentant to church membership and Paul revealed that while he was applying proper Christian judgment to this situation, he had been sorrowful that he had to do it! (Read 2 Corinthians 2:1-10.) Those who exercise proper Christian judgment realize the seriousness of the task.

6. Proper Christian judgment always has as its aim the salvation or the restoration of the person being judged. Proper Christian judgment never seeks judgment for the infliction of vengeance or wrath. The Apostle Paul

wrote, “Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.” (Galatians 6:1) God Himself states, “‘As I live!’ declares the Lord God, ‘I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live.’” (Ezekiel 33:11) The proper motive of proper Christian judgment is to warn the one who sins to turn from that way that they might come to life and salvation through the cross of Jesus Christ.

7. Proper Christian judgment never “ranks” fellow Christians. The Apostle Paul stated, “But to me it is a very small thing that I should be examined by you, or by any human, or by any human court; in fact, I do not even examine myself... Therefore, do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to Him from God.” (1 Corinthians 4:3,5) Paul was saying we’ve got to be very careful about forming any list of “Top Ten Christians.” In fact, we shouldn’t have such a list. “Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and stand he will, for the Lord is able to make him stand.” (Romans 14:4) Only God knows who has fully obeyed Him. Our tendency is to exalt someone who looks like they have done a great work for God when, in reality, the real work could have been done by a quiet intercessory prayer warrior who received no public accolades. Quite frankly, if you and I take our walk with God seriously, we’ve got more than enough to do in attending to God’s will for our own lives than to sit around forming lists of who we think is most valuable to God. Any time we start this kind of evaluation, we commit one of two sins: 1. Either we commit the sin of pride because we think we’re more valuable than our brother or sister; or 2. We commit the sin of self-condemnation because we think someone else is better. On top of that, we’ve probably got the whole list wrong!

8. Proper Christian judgment rests in the fact that Jesus Christ is the ultimate Judge Who will properly deal with everything. So, if something “got by you” in your desire to make sure the Body of Christ runs as it should, you can rest in the fact that there is Someone Who has been doing it a lot longer than you have, and He’s been doing it a lot better than you have for centuries now. James tells us, “There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One Who is able to save and destroy.” (James 4:12) Nothing gets by this Judge, and He does all things well (Mark 7:37). This indeed is a comfort.

CHAPTER THREE GIVING

The Lord Jesus Christ told us that God has a second measuring cup:

Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return.

- Luke 6:38

A second area of life where we determine what we will receive is in the area of giving. Our generosity will determine the quality of abundance in our life.

There is one who scatters, yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, but it results only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered. He who withholds grain, the people will curse him, but blessings will be on the head of him who sells it.

- Proverbs 11:24-26

God has set up our world so that we really don't prosper unless we become givers. Truly abundant life is the result of our initiating the giving process. We live in a world where greed is proclaimed as the way to go. But God's wisdom runs contrary to the wisdom of the world (1 Corinthians 1:18-31). God's Word declares that greed, or the "taking mentality" is actually idolatry (Ephesians 5:5). The person who seeks to "take" is a person who worships possessions – things have become their god. We have become a materialistic society, actually greedy, and yet we have more financial bankruptcies than ever, and more important, we suffer from a severe moral poverty. Although people get more "things," they have an increasing unhappiness in their lives and are uneasy with their inner knowing that "something is missing."

God created us to be "givers." God, furthermore, has promised that He will bless the act of giving (Luke 6:38). The high quality, abundant life that

finds favor and blessing with God is the life that “gives” rather than “takes.” The person who gives will always be close to the heart of God and can call on God and draw from His resources in the time of battle.

Although giving includes the act of using our financial resources, giving really involves a much broader span of our human activity. Giving is a lifestyle. It includes giving our time to those who need our attention, giving our patience to those who need help, giving our love to those who are hurting, giving encouragement to those who are downcast, giving our friendship to the lonely.

God has promised two things to the giver: 1. They will receive back to themselves the exact same things they give to others when they give from the heart; and 2. They will receive those things back in the same measure or according to the same degree in which they have given. The Apostle Paul stated, “He who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully.” (2 Corinthians 9:6) In other words, he who invests his time to help others will never be short of time; he who encourages others will himself never lack confidence; he who gives food to the hungry will himself always have food; he who is friendly will never be lonely; he who loves will always be loved.

The world’s greatest giver is God Himself Who gave His Son for our salvation.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- John 3:16

God sent His Son Jesus so that through faith in Jesus, any person could find the remedy for anything that would try to destroy them. In Jesus is forgiveness of sins, healing for sickness, supply for any lack or need, deliverance from any oppression, addiction, or obsession, and a new start in life no matter what one’s past is.

I remember a story in which brings home to the heart the measuring cup effect of giving. In a small town there was once a farmer who had worked out a deal with the store owner. The farmer would bring his raw wheat to the store and trade it for an equal amount of bread that was already baked. He would get a loaf of bread which weighed one pound for every pound of wheat he brought. This arrangement was working advantageously, for both men.

After several months, the farmer thought, “If I only put in nine-tenths of a pound of wheat into the one pound sack, the store owner will never know and I’ll get the loaf of bread and I’ll come out a little ahead of the game.” So the farmer brought his underweight sack of wheat to the store. Well, the store owner brought out nine-tenths of a loaf of bread to the farmer. The farmer acted insulted and claimed he was being cheated. The store owner replied, “That’s strange. I always take your sack of wheat and put it on one side of my scale in the back room, and then I put bread on the other side of the scale until it balances. Usually, the sack of wheat equals one loaf of bread, but today it only equaled nine-tenths of a loaf. I know my scales are right because I just had them checked.”

The farmer had been caught in his trick! My friend, the pipe you give through is the same pipe you receive through. The measuring cup of your giving will be the measuring cup of your receiving.

CHAPTER FOUR THE WORD OF GOD

The Lord Jesus Christ taught us that God has a third measuring cup, and that is how we respond to His Word:

And He was saying to them, “Take care what you listen to. By your standard of measure it shall be measured to you; and more shall be given you besides. For whoever has, to him shall more be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.”

- Mark 4:24-25

Of God’s measuring cups, this one is the most important. The key issue is: How do we listen to the Word of God? How eagerly do we seek the spiritual truth of the Bible? How diligently do we desire the wisdom of the sayings of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself?

Jesus applied the “measuring cup” principle to the Word of God. Jesus was saying, in this scripture, that the more we seek His Truth, the more abundant our life would be. It is through the diligent study of the Word of God that the Holy Spirit directs us into joy, purpose for our lives, and peace. Likewise, the more we neglect the Word of God or ignore it, the weaker we will become in our spirit man, our inner person. As in the areas of judging

and giving, we determine the abundance or lack of blessing from God's Word according to our own diligence in studying the Word.

God's Word is no ordinary word. The Word of God is invested with creative, life-giving power. In Genesis, Chapter 1, God created this world by speaking things into existence. He keeps things going to the "word of His power" (Hebrews 1:3). In fact, His Word is invisible, spiritual food for our invisible spirit. Just as we feed our physical body with material food, it is essential that we feed our spirit man with the food of the Word of God. Jesus said, "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

It is essential to the successful Christian walk that people study and listen to the Word of God being taught. It is the Word of God that will give us wisdom and proper godly direction in our lives: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

Maturity of understanding and skillful use of the Word of God leads to a successful life of faith: "For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil." (Hebrews 5:13-14) What kind of practice? Practice in the mature understanding and skillful use of the Word of God.

ANY TIME YOU PUT INTO THE STUDY OF GOD'S WORD WILL ALWAYS RESULT IN THE BENEFIT OF GROWTH IN YOUR SPIRIT. And when your spirit grows and gets strong, you become more than a conqueror who can do all things through Christ Who strengthens you (Philippians 4:13).

This is why a Christian should be eager to be involved in the study of God's Word. (For a fuller treatment of the power of God's Word, write to the Christ's Chapel address at the back of this book to receive the free book *Victory In Jesus*.) A Christian should have a daily time set aside when they will read a portion of scripture and just sit and meditate upon that portion and ask the Holy Spirit to make that word real and effective to their heart. A Christian should seek out good, anointed Bible studies and eagerly and faithfully attend. They should also make use of any Bible study tools whenever possible: TV and radio programs, books and teaching tapes.

Jesus told us to "take care" what we listen to. It is more important for us to have our minds renewed by listening to the anointed Word of God than it is to be depressed by the daily news. It is more important to believe and hold fast to the good Word rather than agreeing with idle gossip and worthless communication that surrounds us every day. And it is especially important to be sure that we hear teaching that is faith-filled and which lines up with the

truth of God's Word and not the doubt and traditions of men. Faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17). Doubt and the traditions of men make the Word of God to no effect (Mark 7:13).

The Lord Jesus told us the benefits of building our life on His Word:

Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon that rock.

- Matthew 7:24-25

Whenever I read this scripture, I always think of the children's story of the three little pigs. One pig built his house of straw, another built his house of sticks. When the big bad wolf came along, he easily blew down their houses. But the third little pig built a house of brick which was solid and could not be blown down by the big bad wolf. In fact, when the wolf tried getting in by the chimney, he ended up getting boiled in a hot pot. Jesus promises us the same kind of strength when we build our lives on His Word. We will either go forward in His Word through diligence, or we will grow weaker through neglect. We will be filled by the measure of the cup we present to God.

* * *

We invite you to send any prayer requests you might have for prayer at our chapel prayer meetings. Send to:

Christ's Chapel
PO Box 3182
Fall River, MA 02722

Also write to be put on our mailing list to receive periodic letters. Let us know specifically if you'd like to receive the Daily Devotional.