

“YOU FOLLOW ME!”

By Keith Greer

"Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me." {John 21:21,22}

Peter had a very common problem, which still plagues many today, the problem of not "**minding our own business.**"

After Jesus had told Peter what his duties would be to His lambs, and of the death Peter would die in the future, he saw John. "What about this man"? Did Christ mean that John was going to never die? Please read verse 23.

So what is the point? Why do so many Christians worry so much about what "others" are doing, and give little attention to their own lives? Shifting the attention to another might take the spotlight off them!

"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you cry to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. "{Matthew 7:1-5}

People often quote these passages to try and show that we have no right to judge another. Read very carefully the text of Jesus's words. What is under consideration is "**hypocritical judging**". Take care of self-first, then turn our attention to others.

What if another brother is not doing what he should in his service towards God, does that make my shortcomings any less pleasing to God than his? Never have I been able to figure out why brethren like to compare themselves to the "weaker" brother. Can we deceive ourselves in believing this makes us "less wrong" than they? The Bible is full of teachings concerning the need to be first concerned with self. Let's look at some of them.

"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;" {Philippians 2:12}

"And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." {Acts 2:40}

"...who will render to each one according to his deeds." {Romans 2:6}

"But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified" {1 Corinthians 9:27}

"But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality."

{Colossians 3:25}

"A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps." {Proverbs 16:9}

All these passages have one common thread in them. Each person is going to account to God for HIMSELF, not for another. Let us remember, when standing before the bar it will be me and the Lord, no one else!

In closing let me clarify a point. We do need to be concerned for others, Christ plainly teaches this truth. {Philippians 2:2-5}. Yet, how can one best prepare to help his brethren? Help **SELF** first. **"You Follow Him!" *******