

IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE

What comes to mind when you see the title of our article? The answer you give just may give you a clue as to where your heart is. As I write this article, I can think of two times in the New Testament when Jesus used this phrase. The first is in Luke 2:49 when Jesus had been missing from his parents' caravan for three days. "And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? knew ye not that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49). Do you remember where He was and what He was doing? Our point is here that Jesus called the temple His Father's house. The temple was the center of Jewish religion and civil affairs for a long, long time. This, brethren, is not the case for us today. We have no temple made with hands of material things that we can call "God's house." Rather, Paul says we, the church, are God's household, His temple (Ephesians 2:19,21).

Brethren we err when we consider the meeting house as God's house. No church building in the Bible was ever called God's house--simply because there were no church buildings! Let us be careful not to attach more importance to a building than God has. The building in which we assemble *is not* the church--we the people are. We do not "go to church," we **ARE** the church. It is better to say that we "go to worship" (as did Luke say of the Ethiopian eunuch and the apostle Paul) or "go to Bible study."

The other reference to "in my Father's house" is found in John 14:1, where our Lord was trying to comfort His apostles in regard to His going away. Where

was he going? To His Father's house: Heaven! Now, where do we have our minds and hearts set? On that which is material, temporal...or that which is spiritual, eternal?



WE ARE ON TRIAL



The apostle Paul made an interesting statement dealing with faithfulness and judgment in 1 Corinthians 4:1-5. Some who would have us to believe that it is never right to "pass judgment" on anyone or anything else will at times use this text to try to prove it. The text reads, "Let a man so account of us, as of ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Here, moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing against myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Wherefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and make manifest the counsels of the hearts; and then shall each man have his praise from God." Some would make an application which is not warranted by this text. It goes something like this: "I don't really care what you think, I'm going to do as I please and you can't judge me." Or they will say, "Now, don't judge me for only the Lord can judge." Friends, neither of these statements is true. We are to judge those about us. How else can we know whether one is saved and in need of the Gospel message? How can we know whether a brother or sister is living correctly if we do not make some kind of judgment? Is it true that only God

can judge? **NO!** In fact we are commanded to make judgments (John 7:24; I Corinthians 5:12; 6:1-5).

We are being judged at all times by ourselves, those who see us, by the world, and by our Lord. Let us be aware and thus live correctly that these judgments be in our favor. Let us live so that the world will not judge us incorrectly; that our brethren will not believe the worst about us; and that the Lord will reward us in the Last Day.

Never let popular opinion be your guide and judge for your actions. Sin is popular, but it is not to set our standards. The Law reads, "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil" (Exodus 23:2). Good behavior is not so popular, but those who ridicule it must not keep us from doing right. Neither is mere conscience to be our guide in morals and doctrinal things. The wise man tells us, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). We are not on our own. Live right before the Lord and He will reward you. Do not abstain from doing right because it is not popular. Let us live in such a way that we may pass the test!

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

5775 Rager Rd, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110
Phone: 614-830-0110
Website: www.ragerroad.org



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley James Grayson	614-751-1082 614-409-0941

May 10, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

Wednesday's Wisdom:

"Treat brethren graciously; forgive when they repent and confess" James Grayson

Our sick: Lloyd & Barbara are home. Brother Lloyd has lost lots of weight from his disease. Pray for his comfort at this time.

Sister Dana has been out sick and we hope she'll be back soon.

The Whites have been to TN. to see their ailing granddaughter. She is not expected to last much longer.

Brother Wiley's sister, dealing with her liver cancer, and her husband who just had a heart attack need our prayers.

Brother Steve's sister who had a stroke some weeks ago, recently had a heart attack as well.

Tristen Wiley just had her tonsils and adenoids removed.

Susie's mom had to be taken to the emergency room this past week.

Happy Mother's Day!

Men's business meeting will be next week, after our fellowship meal together.