

THE TALE OF TWO CHURCHES  
Part IIID  
Things The Corinthians Were Ignorant of  
“Saints Will Judge The World And Angels”  
1st Co. 6:1-3

INTRODUCTION

We have been studying the “Do ye not know” statements made by the apostle Paul to the Corinthian church. These statements revealed an ignorance in the Corinthians about the way they should have behaved in some circumstances. Today, we will consider their ignorance about judgment. The apostle Paul revealed two things related to judgment that the Corinthians missed on. They should have judged the man who had a relationship with his father’s wife. And, they should not have taken their disputes to the pagan tribunals for resolution. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians seem to suggest that their ignorance in these matters were due to their carnality. We will consider just how that carnality affected their ability to judge.

- I. DUE TO THEIR CARNALITY THE CORINTHIANS WERE WARY OF JUDGING A MAN IN THE CHURCH.
  - A. Instead of judgment of the man with his father’s wife, they were puffed up. 1st Co. 5:2
    1. The phrase “puffed up” is a form of phusio (perf. Passive part.) which means “**to inflate, not occurring; to cause someone to be proud; arrogant.**” -- Louw-Nida lexicon cf. (Used 5 times in the book of 1st Co. 4:6,18,19; 13:4)
    2. The proper attitude of the Corinthians towards the incident should have been to “mourn” --pentheo (aor. act.ind.)
  - B. The apostle Paul exhorted them that he had already judged the man though he wasn’t there. 1st Co. 5:3
    1. The apostle uses a form of the word krino to express his judgment.
      - a) “Krino” is used in Scripture of making a distinction between one thing versus another.
        - (1) “**To distinguish, that is, decide (mentally or judicially); by implication to try, condemn, punish: - avenge, conclude, condemn, damn, decree, determine, esteem, judge, go to (sue at the) law, ordain, call in question, sentence to, think.**” -- Strong’s lexicon
        - (2) “**To come to a conclusion in the process of thinking and thus to be in a position to make a decision - 'to come to a conclusion, to decide, to make up one's mind.**” -- Louw-Nida lexicon

- b) The verb Paul uses to describe his judgment notes a continual state of judgment (perf. Act. ind.) cf. Tit. 3:12 (of Paul determining to winter in Nicopolis)
- 2. Paul's judgment was based upon the facts of the situation, even though he wasn't there. Vs. 3
  - a) "As" notes a simile -- like, similar to.
  - b) "Present" -- pareimi -- **to be in the same physical location as to the one with whom one is communicating**. Cf. 2 Co. 10:2,11; 13:2, 10

## II. THE CORINTHIANS WERE GUILTY OF NOT JUDGING ANY MATTERS.

### A. Disputes among those in the church were taken to court. 1st Co. 6:1

- 1. The word "matter" is a word we get our English word "pragmatism" from -- pragma -- **"a legal process lawsuit, dispute."** -- Friberg lexicon cf. Acts 5:4 (used of the business transaction of Ananias and Sapphira)
- 2. The Corinthians were going to court against "another" (the use of the word heteros -- others of a different kind -- as opposed to allos notes the divisions in that existed in Corinth)
- 3. The use of the word "having" (present act. part.) notes that these were persistent disputes.

### B. Paul used strong language to rebuke the Corinthians. Vs. 6:1

- 1. "Dare" is the Greek word polma which is used in a good and positive sense in Scripture.
  - a) It is used in a good sense of being brave enough to continue to preach the good news. Phil. 1:14
  - b) In a bad sense it is used of one **being audacious; to do something openly that one should be ashamed of**. K.D.J.
- 2. The thing that the apostle was really surprised by was that they went to law with another believer before the "unjust". Vs. 1
  - a) "Unjust" is adikon -- those who are seen as **unrighteous**. Acts 24:15 (the irony is that these are the same unbelievers that the believer will stand in judgment on)<sup>1</sup>
  - b) Such disputes should have taken place "before the saints". Vs. 1
    - (1) "The saints" is a phrase used emphasizing believers in the Body of Christ.
    - (2) Paul put many into prison. cf. Acts 26:10
    - (3) Believers should contribute to the necessity of. Rom. 12:13
    - (4) Spiritual gifts are for the perfecting of. Eph. 4:12

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<sup>1</sup> The Jews held that to bring a lawsuit before a court of idolaters was blasphemy against the law. But the Greeks were fond of disputatious lawsuits with each other. Probably the Greek Christians brought cases before pagan Judges. -- A.T. Robertson

### III. THE CORINTHIANS WERE IGNORANT OF THE PROMINENT ROLE OF BELIEVERS IN FUTURE JUDGMENTS.

- A. Paul reminded the Corinthians that because they will judge the world, they were more than qualified to judge other matters 1st Co. 6:2
  - 1. "Judge" is the future act. Ind. of krino.
  - 2. The phrase "the world" is used of the unsaved people of the world. Cf. John 12:47 (Christ did not come to judge the world during His earthly ministry)
  - 3. God has promised to both Israel and the Church that we will aid Him in Judgment.
    - a) Some in Israel were promised that they would judge the 12 tribes of Israel. Matt. 19:28
    - b) Believers in this dispensation are promised that we will judge the world with Christ. Acts 17:31 (A time has been set when He will judge the world)
  
- B. Paul reminded the Corinthians that fact that believers shall judge angels qualifies them for judgment of matters of this life. 1st Co. 6:3
  - 1. Certain angels sinned in the days of Noah and are reserved for judgment.
    - a) These angels kept not their way of habitation. Jude 1:6
    - b) They are awaiting judgment. 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 1:6
  - 2. "This life" is biotika -- things related to biological life. Lk. 8:14 (it consists of cares, riches and pleasures); 21:34 (heart can be weighted down by things pertaining to it); 2 Tim. 2:4 (believers are warned not to entangle selves in it)

### CONCLUSION