

Father, we are in Your house. We are Your house. Come, Lord Jesus, sup with us, fellowship with us, speak to us. You have to speak, Lord, because You alone have the words of life. Speak to us, Lord. We have come to hear from You. Give us hearing ears, a believing heart and a will to obey. Teach us to walk before You each day, each week, each month, allowing Your Holy Spirit to change us in the image of Your Son. Speak, Father. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Hallelujah! How many of you were there last month? Most of you were there last month. So, I hope you remember what we looked at last month because we will continue from there. Though each Pastor's Conference will be complete in itself, we had looked last month about true grace because the Bible talks about the true grace. That also means there is false grace. You see, there is true grace and there is false grace. We had looked last month from *John 1:17*, that *law came through Moses but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ*. And *John 1:14* will say, "*Jesus came with grace upon grace.*" Full of grace and full of truth. And whatever situation we are in, His grace is sufficient and the entire *Book of Acts* shows a set of powerful people who lived by grace. We haven't even faced a fraction of what the first century believers have faced. We don't even really know what persecution is like. We don't even really know it is like. Yet, they were victorious in life and in death. They could sing through it all and that's what is missing in the Church.

Where is the grace of God? If His grace is sufficient for us, where is the grace of God? The reason here is truth. We looked at that last month. He didn't come with grace alone, He came with truth also. So, last month, in the second session we looked, if truth falls to the ground, everything else is blocked. We are living in the age of grace, when sin is abounding but the Scripture says, "*Where sin abounds, grace abounds even more.*" We need grace more than ever before. Remember the things that are happening, including the withdrawal of the money. Only we understand what it is all about. You cannot bring these things suddenly. People have to get used to it. As long as there is money, the paper money, it is difficult to control people. So, they want to shift everybody to the card. It will happen. People are realizing, "O, if I had a card, it's easy. At least, I can get two thousand." And every text you get from the banks, "Take a card." Why? Because we can be controlled. First, the card; after that, you realize the card itself is dangerous because people can duplicate cards. They can use your number and can take your money off. So then, they will say, "Better than the card, let the chip be inside you." Nobody can take it. Even if they cut your hand off, the chip will die and everybody will think in terms of security. But the problem is this – everything by the card and the chip is controlled by the internet. If the internet fails, you have no money. You can't buy; you can't sell. It's all the control coming into the hands of a few people. Step by step, till September 30th, internet was controlled by America. After September 30th, control has gone to a set of people in Europe. Obama signed that order. Things are changing. We are one set of people who don't worry because we know our God. He is still the same. Whatever they try, our God is in control. So, do not fear but we learn and we prepare and we prepare by having truth inside us. More than enough grace is available. Plenty of grace is available. Whatever need we face, grace is available. Only one issue – deal with truth. If truth is fallen, everything stays back. That is why when the Spirit of truth comes, He will lead us to all truth. It is the truth that set us free because when truth comes in, grace is poured into our situation and then, like Paul and Silas, we can also sing. So, when we study the Bible, we meditate on the Word of God, the reason we look into the Word, is for life. The life.

So, the Old Covenant and the New Covenant are different. The Old Covenant dealt with outward things; the New Covenant deals with inward things. One dealt with the physical; the other deals with the spiritual. Never neglect the Old Testament. If we neglect the Old Testament, we neglect it for our own loss because we learn from the Old Testament, the spiritual principles of the New Covenant. That's how we apply. Amen. Once we are saved, I believe everybody here is saved. Amen. Salvation is the work of God. It is like getting admission into Government school. Admission free. God gives us salvation but

even in government school, promotion is not free. Once you get your admission, you should focus on promotion and promotion in the school is connected with one thing called examination. Every good student lives in the light of examination. Once we are saved, we also should live in the light of examination. *Hebrews 9:27*, Scripture says,

Hebrew 9:27

²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

That is, it's a judgment. It's appointed. Nobody can miss that appointment unless we are lucky to be there when Jesus comes and to be taken in the clouds. Otherwise, it is appointed. It is an appointment. After that is the evaluation. So, we are running a race and at the end of it, there is judgment. Never forget this. Everyone sitting here, who is saved, is running a race. Four times in the New Covenant, three times through Apostle Paul and one through the writer of the *Book of Hebrews*, it is clearly mentioned we are all running a race. And to run this race and finish well, grace is given. Grace in the Bible is not like grace in the school. In school, grace means, you are a useless student, give him grace marks, let him pass. That is how people have misunderstood grace. In the Kingdom of God, grace means you have been given the power of the Holy Spirit to finish well. We are running a race. In *1 Corinthians 9:24-27*, Apostle Paul gives the most complete picture of the race. We'll go verse by verse.

1 Corinthians 9 :24-27

²⁴ Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. ²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize us temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

First thing written is that, "Run in such a way that you may obtain the prize." Run according to the rules. You cannot run the way we please. In every race, there are rules. Run to obtain the prize. Run according to the rules.

Second rule given – *verse 25*,

²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize us temperate in all things...

They are temperate. Be temperate in all things. Balance. Grace and truth. This world and the coming Kingdom, life on earth and life with the Lord. Remember both. Be balanced.

Third thing mentioned, *verse 26*,

²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

What does it mean? *Verse 26* – don't run aimlessly; be focused. Even here, I've seen this month after month, some of you come from far away and then, you come here and you go to sleep. That's running aimlessly. Why did you come here? Very simple. We came here to learn from the Word of God. That is the focus. That is the aim. That's what Scripture says, "I don't run with uncertainty. I am very clear," Paul says, "I am running my race. I am very focused." And God says that in everything we do, "Be focused. Don't forget you are running a race." And *verse 27* says,

²⁷ But I discipline my body...

Why? Because without discipline, you cannot run a race. Without discipline, you'll never win a race and this race God has put in demands spiritual discipline.

The first spiritual discipline we need is – the discipline to be able to hear. So many people do not have the discipline to hear; they have the discipline to watch. If there is a movie here, they will watch. Two hours, three hours, they can watch. But faith comes from hearing. Hearing is a discipline. To be able to meditate upon the Word of God is a discipline; to be able to pray is a discipline; to be able to fast is a discipline, continuously. This is till the end of your life. Little by little. That's why Paul says, "I discipline my body. Otherwise, after having preached," he says, "I myself could become disqualified." So, you can be disqualified. Even the apostle can be disqualified. That's what he says. He doesn't say, "I'll lose my salvation," he says, "I will be disqualified." And Paul says, "Many will come through the fire disqualified with salvation alone." That's why we have to be careful about how we run this race. If you go to *Hebrews 12:1*, we'll learn more about running this race.

Hebrews 12:1

¹ Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.

So, we are running a race. Scripture says, "Lay aside every weight and every sin." These two are not the same. Weight and sin are not the same. Some of you are carrying weights. Even when you are sitting here, you are not able to hear because you are carrying weights. "How will I do this?" "How will this happen?" Can you carry it? No, we can't. That's why Jesus said, "Cast your burdens unto My feet." If you don't, we will take our eyes off the race. Sin and weight are not the same.

Last week like all of us, I hear, "Banks are shut. ATMs won't function. You cannot withdraw, only minimum." You are worried. Do you understand my weight? If you look secularly, I have thirty-five employees and I have fifty orphans to feed and this week is Pastor's Conference and I need hundreds and fifties. Am I going to worry or am I going to prepare the Word? The God who brought me through all these years, is He faithful? Or when government makes a decision, God says, "Oh, I am sorry. Now, you have to wait." This is the problem. You can either carry it, put it at His feet and say, "Lord, I trust You. You will make a way and I believe You." Weight and sin are not the same. Weight is one thing, sin is another thing and the *writer of Hebrews* says, "Lay aside," both weight and sin. Both can ensnare you. Good righteous believers are ensnared by weights and not by sins. They don't sin. When they sin, they repent. But still, they struggle. Why? Because they carried this weight. The grace of God is available. For every situation, it is available. So, God again teaches, "Lay aside weight. Lay aside sin."

Third thing – run with endurance. This is not a short distance race; this is a long-distance race. In a short distance race, you need speed. In a long distance race, you need endurance. Endurance is built little by little. That's why our troubles never cease. Because endurance is built only through trials and testing. So, the Word of God explains how to run this race. Then, if you turn to the other place, *2 Timothy 4:7*, where race is mentioned

2 Timothy 4:7

² I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

So, when you are running this race, there is a fight also involved. You face spiritual enemies who are trying to block you from running this race and you have to fight the race. In the process of running the race, you have to keep the faith. You cannot run by sight. Through sight, we can do many things but Scripture is very clear – when you are running this race, you have to keep the faith. And most important, it is not enough to start the race, run most of the race, but you have to finish the race. Paul says, "I have finished the race." We have to finish the race. Death does not mean we finished the race. You

could die without finishing the race. You and I could die disqualified in this race, but you could also look at death with the confidence, “I have finished my race.” So, we see the Bible mentioning it and then, in Acts 20:22-24, we will see Paul saying,

Acts 20:22-24

²² And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. ²⁴ But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

So, what does Paul say? “I’m running a race. What waits for me ahead, I don’t know,” but the Holy Spirit says, “As you go forward, you will have trouble in every city but that will not stop me from running the race. Why? Because when I run this race, I’ve already made it very clear – this life is not dear to me; the next life is.” That’s the only way you can run, knowing trouble is waiting for us. And moreover, he says, “I not only want to finish my race, I want to finish my race with joy.” Why? Because God loves a cheerful giver. Many are running the race but if you look at their face, it’s this long. “Aiya (sir), why is this happening, sir?” He says, “I want to finish my race with joy.” “Are you running the race?” “Yes.” “Are you running with joy?” “No.” That’s what is written about them – backs broken, legs locked up, throw in the prison; they are singing. Why? Because they are running a race. They are running a race with joy and we should complete the ministry which God has given to us. We should complete the ministry. If you and I don’t run our race with joy, we will never complete because God will withdraw because God will say, “You are a terrible testimony. You are not a witness of the Gospel of grace.” The Gospel of grace is manifested in peace and joy. Understand. As we read Scripture, these are all the truths of God. So, when we sit for an exam, we also need to know how we will be examined. Don’t just randomly study. We need to know how we will be examined. That is called part of the preparation. And the Bible is very clear about this. There is no confusion at all. In Romans 14:10-12,

Romans 14:10-12

¹⁰ But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. (Everybody will stand before the judgment seat of Christ.) ¹¹ For it is written: “As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.” ¹² So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

We only have to give account about ourselves; not about others. Only about ourselves. In 1 Peter 4:5,

1 Peter 4:5

⁵ They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

Everybody will give an account. So, there is an examination coming. There is a day of judgment coming and we will all stand before Him. What will we have to give account for? Why are people standing before the bank and why are some people not coming to the bank? Because if they know, if they put their money in the bank, they have to give an account to the government, “Where did your money come from?” Honestly, go through the town, city – look at the people who are standing in the queue. All are ordinary people. Where are the rich people? Why are they not coming? Because they have to give an account. I was looking at every picture, looking for one rich man. All simple people are standing there – four thousand rupees, ten thousand rupees. The suitcase-walas, nobody were there. Why? They know they will have to give account. Everyone will have to give account. But this account is nothing. If you take twenty lakhs, what is the punishment? Two hundred percent penalty. That’s all. You know what it means? If you put hundred rupees, you’ll get two rupees back. That’s all. You won’t go to jail but even then, people are afraid. What about when they stand before Christ? How do we give

account? What do we give account? First thing, *Matthew 12:36*. We'll probably look at only this the whole day. Okay? Jesus is saying,

Matthew 12:36

²⁶ *But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.*

That includes our words, our SMS, our text, email, everything.

Second,

Revelation 20:12-13

¹² *And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.* ¹³ *The sea gave up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.*

Kriya (works). They were judged each one according to his works. So, we are judged according to our words; we are judged according to our works.

Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

That's the difference. Unbeliever will be judged for every work. Believer will be judged differently. In old days, when we were studying, they told us, "In history examination, just keep on writing. The bigger the pile, the teacher will give you marks. They don't have time to read all that. Your beginning should be right, your end should be right. It doesn't matter what's in the middle." But you see, question paper is here, answer paper is here. Your answer has to be according to the question. This is the problem. Many believers will stand before God, "Lord, I did this, I did this, I did this..." God will say, "It was not in the question paper," which God prepared beforehand. For all of us, God has already prepared a question paper. That is why, here, in the Word of God, you will see the servant of God crying, "Lord, what must I do?" We are the other way – "Lord, I did it! Now, You bless it." We never ask, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" The works God prepared for us beforehand. Amen.

Romans 2:6

⁶ *who "will render to each one according to his deeds":*

According to our deeds.

1 Timothy 5:24

²⁴ *Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later.*

Some people, their deeds are so evil that it is going ahead of them. Some people, it is going but slowly going behind them. But everybody will be judged. We will be judged for our words; we will be judged for our works; then, *Romans 2:16*,

Romans 2:16

¹⁶ *in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.*

Not only our words, not only our works, He will judge the intentions and the thoughts of our minds.

Hebrews 4:12-13

¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

Hallelujah. Not only our words, not only our works, our words may be wonderful; our intentions and thoughts may be exactly opposite. It is written in Scripture. Do you remember the prophet Balaam? Listen to his words, the oracles of Balaam. Everything he was saying was a blessing upon Israel but the intentions of his mind, he wants to curse Israel. If you go by his words, you should be given a reward but if you go by his intentions, he has to be judged and he is judged. Finally, he will say, "I want to die the death of a righteous." But he is judged as unrighteous. When Joshua enters the Promised Land, Balaam, the son of Beor, is cut into pieces. Why? Because the intentions and the thoughts of your hearts don't match with your words. So, our thoughts, our intentions, our words, our works, God says, "All of this have to be in a straight line." And then, *Luke 16:1*, we have to give an account of our stewardship.

Luke 16:1

¹ He also said to His disciples: "There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods.

What's the word in Telugu for 'steward'? Are we good stewards? We should become more and more better as His stewards. What does God expect from a steward? The next verse,

1 Corinthians 4:2

² Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

God says, "This body is My temple." It is not ours; it is His. God says, "Are you a good steward of your body?" Every one of us, only gets 24 hours. Are we good stewards of our time? All of us have resources, little or more. Are we faithful stewards of His resources? Our entire life, God says, "Will you be found faithful?" We will have to give an account of our stewardship and Scripture says, "To many, He will say, 'well done, My good and faithful servants'."

And then, when it comes to us, the fifth thing for servants of God, for Pastors, *Hebrews 13:17*,

Hebrews 13:17

¹⁷ Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, (This is written to the congregation.) as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

Remember what is God saying, telling us, "All of us shepherds will one day give account to God, how we shepherded our flock." Primarily, what did we feed them? How did we counsel them? These two things. What did we feed them? How did we counsel them? Listen to Paul in *Acts 20:26-27*,

Acts 20:26-27

²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

How do we become innocent of the blood of the sheep? We give them the full counsel of God. Consider the severity and the kindness, both sides. Know the love of God, know the terror of God. We balance it. How does that happen? In *Galatians 1:10*, Paul will tell the secret.

Galatians 1:10

¹⁰ For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.

You are getting the picture? He says, “I have to preach pleasing to God, not pleasing to man because one day, I have to give account to God and not to man.” That’s why Paul will tell Timothy in *2 Timothy 2:15*,

2 Timothy 2:15

¹⁵ Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

So, we can wrongly also divide the Word and we can rightly also divide the Word. But we need to be approved to God. For that, we need to be diligent. So, in *1 Timothy 4:16*, Paul will tell Timothy,

1 Timothy 4:16

¹⁶ Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

Take heed to doctrine. Doctrines are of the devil; doctrine is of Christ. Through the Bible, you only have the doctrine of Christ. It’s like a whole building and you can err on one doctrine, come this far and get stuck. I’ll show you one doctrine on which so many people have got stuck.

Hebrews 6:2

² of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Baptisamalu (Baptisms). Did it say baptisms? Plural, baptisms? But half the believing Church will not accept this. Only one baptism? No, there are many baptisms. Baptism of John, baptism of Jesus Christ, baptism of the Holy Spirit, baptism of fire, baptism of martyrdom. These are different baptisms but when you block your eyes, “No, there is only one baptism,” you can’t go further; you are stuck here, when Bible says, “The doctrine of baptisms.” Bible doesn’t say, “Doctrines of baptism,” it says, “The doctrine of baptisms.” Understand that. Over this, millions of believers are stuck because they have not read the Bible carefully. Remember Paul in his journey, reached a place and he found believers there. He said, “Have you received the Holy Spirit?” They said, “We didn’t even know there was a Holy Spirit.” So, he asked, “Whose baptism did you receive?” They said, “We received the baptism of John.” He said, “Not enough. You need to be baptized in the Name of Jesus.” And then, they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Hear all, if you don’t understand doctrines, then we teach error and then, we stand before God, when we give an account, we will say, “But Lord, in my Bible college, that is what they taught me.” He will ask, “What is written? Did you elevate your Bible college above My Word or did you lift My Word above the doctrines of man?” They are not bad people; they are good people. When it comes to certain things, they block and you get stuck there. The problem is this – if I get stuck there, my whole congregation gets stuck there. God says, “You will have to give account one day.” That is why Moses prays, “Lord, these are Your people. Teach me Your ways that I might lead them. Your ways, not the ways of man, not the ways of the

world, not the wisdom of the world. Teach me Your ways.” So, God says that we, shepherds, have to give account one day. So, what does that demand from us?

All our lives, we are students of the Word of God. We have to keep on studying. Why? If I stop here, ninety percent of my congregation will stop here. A few may go beyond but most will stop here. Therefore, I have to keep on moving. So, the others can keep on moving because we are the ones who search the Scriptures and teach the people of God. So, God says that we will have to give an account. So, you see, there are so many areas in which we have to be careful on the day of judgment. So, as we run the race, you always run in the light of judgment.

2 Corinthians 5:10

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

There is only one way we can face that day with confidence. There’s only one way. The Bible shows us that way,

1 Corinthians 11:31-32

³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. (If we don’t want to be judged, God says, “Judge yourselves.”) ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.

Sometimes, so many things we are going through may be from the hand of God and not from the hand of the devil. We cannot escape it; we cannot run away from it because the hand of God is very, very long. That’s why David says, “Where can I hide from You? Even if I try to make my bed in hell, You find me there also.” So, if God is chastening us, it is because He loves us. Only answer is this – repent and change. The hand is removed. So, Scripture says, “If we judge ourselves, don’t judge others. If we judge ourselves, we will not be judged.” Otherwise, Scripture says, “We will be judged.” So, we are running a race, knowing, ultimately, we will be judged by God. Learn to judge ourselves daily. Judge everything that is happening in our lives. Judge our words, judge our actions, judge our thoughts, judge our intentions, judge our works. If we do, Scripture promises,

1 Corinthians 2:15

¹⁵ But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one.

Who is a truly spiritual man? He judges everything in his life, not somebody else. God says, “Judge.” In *Matthew 7:1-2*,

Matthew 7:1-2

¹ “Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

Now, can we get into some difficult part of the Word? You see, let me explain it to you something which God told me five-six years back. Some of you know me for six years and as far as you know me, I haven’t changed. Only my hair has become grey, okay. Two things God told me; one – give you a good lunch; two – never take registration fee but give you an offering. Why? Because the Word I preach is tough. If I take fifty rupees, you will say, “I gave fifty rupees. Change your word.” And pressure is always on me to make you happy. Here, there is no pressure. All I have to do is to make God happy. So, even when there were eighteen Pastors or two hundred Pastors, whether ATM doesn’t work or bank doesn’t work, God always works. There is no pressure, no pressure at all. Whether ten come or two hundred come, I’ll teach the same Word. So, now, you are going to get into the difficult part. God says, “Judge not lest you be judged. With whatever measure you judge, the same measure you will get back.” Amen. Why? Because we need to understand our God. Our God is many things – God is

love, God is merciful, God is kind, God is compassionate. All that is true but when you think about this as King and His Kingdom, remember *Hebrews 1:8*,

Hebrews 1:8

⁸But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Your kingdom.

Rajdand (sceptre) is what? Is a sceptre of righteousness. Never forget that. When we look at God, we see, “Lord, You are love; You are kind; You are merciful.” All that is true but His primary characteristic – He is just, He is righteous, He will never bend His justice, He will never bend His righteousness. You can cry from morning till evening, if truth is not found in us, He will not bend His justice. That is why Scripture says, “This is the Gospel. Repent for the Kingdom of God is here.” Why repent? Because truth demands repentance. When I repent, I am proclaiming, “You are just. You are righteous.” When we look at the Cross, we say, “God is love, God is merciful, God is kind,” not the angels, not the heavenly hosts. When they look at the Cross and they see God’s own Son hanging on it. You know what they say? “You are just.” The justice of God is met in His Son. Therefore, He is kind to us.

So, anyone who comes to God must first believe that the justice of God was met in Jesus. Repent and believe. Then only He will be declared righteous. It is the justice of God that brings righteousness. God is just. Never forget that God is just. He is just, His justice, His righteousness, His truth, they are all one package, doesn’t change. In *Deuteronomy 32:3-4*, the end of His life, this is the song of Moses, we have it in English, may be in Telugu also you have this song,

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

³For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God. ⁴He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

“God is just, God is righteous, God is upright.” Who is saying this? Moses is saying this. When is Moses saying this? At the end of his life. Moses looked back. “What do you have to show?” “Nothing.” “Where is Egypt? Where is the throne of Egypt?” “Gone.” “Where is the throne of Egypt? Where is your father? Where is your mother? Where is your brother? Where is your sister?” “All dead.” “And you? Are you going to enter the Promised Land?” “No.” “Where are the people that you brought?” “All dead.” “How many are going to enter?” “Two from my generation.” “Are you entering?” “No.” “Is God just?” “He is just. He is upright. All His ways are truth.” That’s the song of Moses. Now, go thousands of years ahead, ahead of even our time and you will see in *Revelation 15:1-4*, another song being sung. We haven’t reached there yet. We will hear that one day.

Revelation 15:1-4

¹Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. (The judgment of God will be complete. Judgment will be complete that day.) ²And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. (They have harps and they are going to sing. Okay listen to their song.)³They sing the song of Moses, (Remember the song of?) the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: “Great and marvellous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! ⁴Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.”

Did you see the song? The song of Moses is now called ‘the song of the Lamb’. What are they saying? Whether you lived under the law or whether you lived under grace, when the time comes, everybody will say, “God is just.” Hallelujah! Will we be able to say today, looking at whatever is happening in our lives and say, “I don’t know but one thing I know – You are

just.” God is always just, God is always upright, God is always truthful. His justice never changes. Understand that. The song of Moses, the song of the Lamb, both are the same and the ones who sing that song are the ones who came through the judgments of God. So, understand – we need to have that song. How do we come through that song? *Matthew 12:36-37*,

Matthew 12:36-37

³⁶ But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

It’s a very interesting verse. Verse 37, God says, “When you stand before Me, you can be either justified or condemned by your own words.” Interesting. God says, “Judge not. Otherwise, you will be judged. With the same measure you judge, the same measure you will get.” You know, God told Moses and Joshua, “I set before you life and death, blessings and curses. You choose life.” How do we choose life?

Proverbs 18:21

²¹ Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Death and life are where? And you know what happens when you don’t correctly divide the Word? What people do or people teach, “Speak the Word of God. Choose life. Speak the Word of God.” This is good, this is not bad but then, they will judge their brother. They have chosen death. With the same measure you judged, the same measure comes back. That’s how you divide. God says, “Be careful about how you judge. Either you can bring life or you can bring death.” Because constantly, when we judge others, we choose death. Soon, we will have lunch, not now; in an hour, we will have lunch. After lunch, I have to come and chase you up and you are all in circles having pastoral fellowship. I stay from pastors’ fellowship because usually, pastors’ fellowship is judging other pastors who are not there. And every time you speak, you are choosing death. We judge doctrine; we test spirits; we do not judge people. Do you know why I am able to love you so easily? Because I don’t know anything about any one of you and I don’t want to know. As far as I know, you are all God’s servants. I will not hear ill about you because this is none of my business. Understand Scripture.

Simple thing – you go to a court; you see a judge. Every judge was once a lawyer. You will never find a judge who was never a lawyer. Can you be a judge without knowing the law? No. Can you make a right judgment without knowing the law? So, what does God say? “*Meditate upon My law day and night.*” You know what David says? “I meditate upon Your law day and night and Your judgments I will proclaim with my mouth.” That’s the principle of law. Even Jesus Christ. Go to *Isaiah 11:3-4*,

Isaiah 11:3-4

³ His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; ⁴ But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked

We judge by what we see; we judge by what we hear; Jesus won’t. He will only judge in righteousness. Understand God’s principle of judging. We need to understand the principles of God’s judgment. When Israel came out as a nation, God gave them the law. A nation cannot exist unless it has laws. Why did Trump win and Hillary lose? Over one thing. Listen to their core arguments. Hillary said, “We will build bridges and highways. We will not build a wall.” He said, “We will build a wall and we will build highways and bridges.” Can a nation exist without walls? Can a house exist without walls? Can a Church exist without walls? Those people who say, “We don’t need walls,” are working for the antichrist. Antichrist doesn’t want walls; he wants one world, one identity. It’s God who divided the nations and set the boundaries and gave languages. The devil doesn’t want that. One world, no walls, one mass of people, no identity; men look like women; women look like men; everybody dresses the same way; no gender difference because he is looking for control. Principles of law should be learnt

from God's Word. When Israel came out, God gave them the law on Mount Sinai and almost every nation's constitutional law is framed on that law. In *Deuteronomy 1:16-17*, this is what God said,

Deuteronomy 1:16-17

¹⁶“Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, ‘Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the stranger who is with him. ¹⁷You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man’s presence, for the judgment is God’s. The case that is too hard for you, bring to me, and I will hear it.’

God makes fundamental principles because we all have to judge and not judge. First thing – He says, “Judge righteously. Don’t pervert righteousness.” Whether it is a brother or a stranger, don’t pervert justice. Judge righteously. Two – you shall not show partiality in judgment. Whether it is a big man or whether it’s a small man, whether it’s a Prime Minister or it is the beggar, justice is not a respecter of persons. Third thing – judgment ultimately belongs to God. Ultimate judgment belongs to God. Authority to judge comes from God and since judgment belongs to God. Even if you escape here, you won’t escape there. Even if the Supreme Court says, “Not guilty,” that court, you will get caught. That is why that day is called the Day of Judgment. Every wrong will be set right that day. So, the first thing God says, “Judge righteously. Be just.”

You know, in the *Book of Micah*, there is this cry from the heart of Micah in *Micah 6:8*,

Micah 6:8

⁸He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

What does God require of you and me? First thing – God says is, “Do justly, be just. Don’t show partiality. Be righteous.” In your judgments, be righteous. That’s the first principle of justice. Be just. What does this mean? First, it means this – don’t judge where you have no authority. Ninety percent of our problem is – we are quick to make judgments where we have no authority. Don’t judge where you have no authority. The law understands that. Sessions court, civil court, judicial magistrate, high court, Supreme Court. They all have their territory. Alwal Police Station limits, Trimalgiri Police Station limits, Karkhana Police station limits, they know their authority. If the Alwal Police has to pick somebody from Bowenpalli, the law says, “It has to go to Bowenpalli P.S., report there, take a policeman from there to your house because that is authority.” In the Church, there is nothing like that. Everybody is judging everybody else and nobody has authority. God says, “But for you, there is a problem – with the same measure you judge, the same measure you will receive because you are My people, called by My Name.” In *Romans 14:4*,

Romans 14:4

⁴Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

Who are you to judge another man’s servant? That’s why I said, “Only judge doctrine.” Siddhantam (doctrine) has to be judged but we don’t judge the person because we don’t know, because another day, God may make him stand even if his siddhantam is wrong. In *Romans 14:10-13* also,

Romans 14:10-13

¹⁰But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. ¹¹For it is written: “As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.” ¹²So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. ¹³Therefore let us not judge one another

anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way. ¹⁴ I know and am convinced by the Lord Jesus that there is nothing unclean of itself; but to him who considers anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

Are we getting the picture? Amen. That's why I said today is a very serious day of study. The principles of justice are set in the *Book of Ephesians*. In *Ephesians*, Scripture says, "We are seated in Christ Jesus." So, what happens? The minute we are seated in Christ Jesus, we start judging everybody while Jesus in whom we are seated is judging nobody. Jesus is interceding for everybody and we are busy judging everybody. Jesus, when He came, He said, "I did not come to judge, I came to save." Next time when He comes, He's not coming to save, He's coming to judge. So, the principle is first set in *Ephesians 5:21*,

Ephesians 5:21

²¹ *submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

What is the first principle of law? Submit to one another knowing there is only one authority. We need to have a healthy respect for the law. ***Submit to one another in the fear of God.*** That is first. First is not authority; first is submission. No one who has learnt to submit will ever use authority well. Know that. If we learn to submit well, we will learn to also exercise authority well. Respect authority. Then, the next verse,

Ephesians 5:22

²² *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

What is God saying? "The man has authority to judge his home; not anybody else's home." Don't judge; don't look through the window, "O, his son will never do good." You will see, later, your son will not do good. Why? Because the same measure you judge, God says, "The same measure, it will come back." God says, "Who are you to judge? You were called to pray for him and not judge him." When Jesus is standing in Heaven, He is interceding. Why are we standing on earth, pointing fingers? We need to realize – so many things that have happened in our lives, we asked for it. Household is the first area of judgment and it is given to the man. Only your home. Then, *Ephesians 6:1*,

Ephesians 6:1

¹ *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*

Authority over the home is given to the parents and to nobody else.

Ephesians 6:5

⁵ *Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ*

What does it mean? Today, what does it mean? Accept the authority of your employer. A lot of Christian young people keep changing their jobs because they fight with their employers and leave and wherever they go, they are struggling. They are praying, they are fasting, they come for prayer, nothing seems to be happening because there is a principle. Principles do not change. I gave my Church this example – Sixteen years ago, I had to go to a country where Christianity was not allowed but the Church wanted me to come there and help and the only way I could stay in this country is by teaching. So, for two years, I taught in a college in daytime and at nights, I worked with all the Churches. I had a Principal and I had a Vice Principal. The Principal was once upon a time my student but all those two years, when I entered his office, I never sat down unless he told me to sit down. Years ago, I had told him, "Sit down;" now, he has to tell me sit down. That's how Kingdom works. He loved me, he respected me, he was not a Christian but I live in the Kingdom. Then, the Vice Principal, even more interesting. He is a secret Christian. So, now, when I go to his office, he will also tell me, "Sir, Sir sit down." But I

always address him as 'Sir'. Sunday, it is different. Now, the secret Church is meeting; I'm the Pastor and the Vice Principal is sitting on the floor before me. Monday, it's again different. You have to know how the Kingdom works. Never change that order because that's how the law and the authority works.

Tomorrow is Sunday. We may be in Churches; we may have big God men officers standing, but when they come through those doors, they are under our authority but when we go out, we are under their authority. Never cross lines. Much of our trouble is because we don't understand how God's Kingdom works. Home-man, household-parents, workplaces-your boss. Church, *Hebrews 13:7* and *13:17*,

Hebrews 13:7

⁷Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

Verse 17,

Hebrews 13:17

¹⁷Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

The shepherd rules the sheep, not sheep the shepherd. Some Churches will never go forward at all simply because there is a committee of sheep sitting there controlling the shepherd. They can advise, they cannot control because it breaks the authority chain of God. So, home, household, office, Church; then, when we go out, *Romans 13:1*,

Romans 13:1

¹Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

Submit to? Every governing authority. God has set boundaries. If we stay within the territory marked by God, we are safe. Do not judge where you have no authority. You can have an opinion. Give it only if someone asks for it. Don't judge. It's very dangerous. Abraham and Sarah. Sarah never judged her husband though Abraham was wrong many times. Because she never judged her husband, God's hand was always there to protect and rescue Sarah. When Abraham went to Egypt, was his judgment right? So many times, his judgments were wrong. Whether he was seventy-six or ninety-nine, both times his judgments were wrong. But God, through Scripture, shows that Sarah never buckled her husband's authority. You can speak, you can tell, you cannot fight. I'm not saying women shouldn't talk, I'm not saying men shouldn't talk. God is saying, "You cannot subvert authority."

Like you are seeing in the streets of America. You see the young people? Breaking cars and burning cars, "You are not our President." Really? Do you want to go back to Cuba? Do you want to go back to Mexico from where you came and live in this country which gives you the freedom to say that? If you had done it in Cuba from where you came, they would have shot you! Here, they allow you to stamp the flag, burn the flag, they allow it and you want to say you don't want this President. A generation of young people who are rebels, who will not accept authority. God has His system in place. In *1 Peter 3:5-6*,

1 Peter 3:5-6

⁵For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, ⁶as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

“Sarah, tell you are my sister.” “Yes, My lord.” “Sarah,” now, he’s ninety-nine; not seventy-five; Abimelech is the king. “Sarah, you are pregnant; you are ninety; you are still beautiful. Tell you are my sister.” “Yes, My lord.” Did God rescue her? Did God allow anybody to touch her? Was Abraham right? No, he was wrong but when Sarah submitted, she was right even when though Abraham was wrong. When we submit, we are upholding the justice of God, the authority of God. Rebekah judged her husband. She will never see that son again. Jacob will never see his mother again. Nothing is written about Rebekah after that. She will just die.

Rachel judged Jacob. By carrying the idols of her father, she was judging her husband. So, Rachel will die. Leah never judged her husband; she just cried to God, “I have a Reuben. Maybe, my husband will look at me. O, I have a Simeon; maybe, my husband will look at me. I have Levi; maybe, my husband will look at me.” Finally, she looked up, “O, I have Judah.” She looks up to God. She never judged her husband. Do you know what happened? Leah will live with Jacob all her life. When Jacob is buried; Leah is buried with Jacob; not Rachel. See, Scripture makes it very clear. Isaac never judged his father. He never judged his father. Isaac never judged his father. Father took him up the mountain, tied him upon the altar, he lifted the knife up, he never judged his father. At the age of forty, his father picked a girl for him. He never judged his father. Jacob judged his father. So, for twenty years, he will run like a slave. Jacob’s ten sons judged their father. So, they will never hear from God until they acknowledge their sin. Joseph never judged his father. So, whatever happens in his life, the hand of God is still with him.

It is not the trials we go through; it’s not the tribulation we go through; the question is this: Is the hand of God with us? It will be, if we understand how God’s Kingdom functions. Never judge outside your area. When we judge, we are breaking the law. It is as much a part of the law as breaking the law.

James 4:10-12

¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. (Immediately it says,) ¹¹ Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. ¹² There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?

We are breaking the law. God says, “Don’t judge when you do not have authority.” It doesn’t matter who you are. Read the paper, Ex-Justice Katju has been asked to appear before the Supreme Court for contempt. Why? Because you questioned the judgment of the Supreme Court. It’s considered contempt of court. That is the law. God says, “You have no authority. Why are you judging your brother? Why are you speaking evil about your brother?” When you judge your brother, where you have no authority, you are not a doer of the law, you become a judge. Then, what will happen? The law will judge you back. It will judge you back. Understand Scripture. This is all New Testament. The law was given through Moses; the principles of that same law is given in the New Covenant. We will look further.

Pastors, be very careful. After lunch, when you stand together, have good fellowship, not judging fellowship. We may agree, we may not agree but we do not judge.

As we close for lunch, I’ll give you one example. Many years ago, in Assam, IPC Church Pastors’ Conference, they called me to speak one day. I had this (showing his ring). They don’t wear gold; they don’t wear jewelry at all. I didn’t think. I had to cross the superintendent first. Godly man; meeting him for the first time. He had come from Gujarat. He looked at this (the ring) and he looked at me and he said, “If you were in my Church, I will not let you sit at the Lord’s table.” I didn’t say anything, nothing at all. The Lord told me, “Every time you go to that Church, take this off. Don’t wear it.” You have choices – either tell them, “I won’t come to your Church,” or if you go to their Church, when you walk through the door, come under their authority. That’s how my Kingdom works. Otherwise, He said, “You will not be a blessing.” He said, “You will go

to IPC Church and you will preach but half the people are not listening to you; they are looking at this – shining.” And next week, five believers will think, ‘the visiting Pastor wore gold. So, I can also wear gold’.” So, now, what have you done? Instead of edifying the Church, you brought friction into the Church. That’s why Paul said, “All things are permissible; all things are not beneficial.” Learn. We learn from Scripture so that when we stand before God, because we have judged ourselves, we have left nothing for Him to Judge, because a spiritual man judges all things but he himself is not judged. Shall we pray?

Father, we just thank You, Lord. As we break for lunch, I pray Your presence would be with us. As your servants eat, as Your servants fellowship, I pray Your Spirit be there with each one of us. Be with us, counsel us, cleanse our tongues, let it be words of edification and encouragement that comes from us. Thank You, Father. We bless Your Holy Name. In Jesus’ Name we pray, Amen.