



BY WHAT LAW DO YOU LIVE?

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If you were brought into court you would be judged according to the laws of the city, state and country in which you live. Since you know that this is the case, you live according to those laws. Living such a life makes it possible for you to give a strong defense if you are ever brought into judgment.

The truth is that a Judgment Day is coming! We have already been given written copies of the law by which we will be judged on that day. It is reasonable, then, isn't it that we should live according to that law?

The Judgment Day that is coming is a day of spiritual judgment of every person who will ever have lived on earth. God has already designated a specific day for the judgment, has named Jesus Christ as the One by whom judgment will be executed and has given assurance of the certainty of that future appointment. Notice what Paul preached in Athens:

"He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:31).

The law by which we will be judged on that day is the New Testament. James referred to the New Testament as "the perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25; 2:12). Jesus, who is to Judge us by the authority of God our Creator, said, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him -- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

The New Testament includes not only the words of Jesus, but also the words of His apostles and other writers inspired by God. Jesus said to the apostles:

"The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you" (John 14:26).

The apostle Paul wrote:

"These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (I Corinthians 2:13).

By all of the words of the New Testament we will be judged.

God has warned us against changing His law in any way. Even His Old Testament Law, given to the Jews through whom He showed Himself to the world, was protected against changes (Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:6). In the New Testament He has said,

"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Revelation 22:18-19).

If we travel by public transportation (plane, train, bus, etc.), we always select one which is advertised to go where we want to go. Can you imagine the confusion that would result if a bus driver did not follow the instructions given to him, but decided to use different streets, or if a pilot flew in a different direction? In such an event you would not arrive at your desired destination.

In the same way, if we do not follow the pattern God has given us in the New Testament, we will never arrive at our desired spiritual destination, which is Heaven. If we live daily according to what "seems right," or what "others are doing," and not according to what "God says," then we are not following the pattern; we will not achieve the desired result. Often it is because of their personal opinions that people believe, speak or behave in certain ways. The driver cannot follow his "personal opinion" and reach his goal; he must follow the map. People cannot follow "personal opinions" and reach Heaven; they must follow the New Testament law.

Are you living according to the pattern? What is the reason for the words you say and the deeds you do (Colossians 3:17)? Is the conduct of your life determined by your own personal desires -- or by the God-given pattern? 

