

**PSALM 25: 4-5 "SHOW ME YOUR WAYS, O LORD" GROUP BIBLE STUDIES -  
LEARNER'S PACKET - LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

**LESSON #2 - GOD'S WAY FOR CORRECTION**

**GOD'S WAY** – Those who do only what they please to do are seldom pleased with what they do. There is a truth that there that has escaped our age. Too many have forgotten that there is such a thing as right and wrong. Our lesson, asks God to help us discern, and witness to that which is right and wrong. We begin with prayer:

**THE PRAYER** – Dear Lord, like the publican in the temple, I daily need to pray, "be merciful to me a sinner." As one of your children, saved by Your Son, I can rejoice in the forgiveness He has given me at the cost of His life. Now, I ask that You will direct me into a responsible Christian life. Let me live for the Savior in thought, word and deed. In Jesus Name, I ask it. Amen.

**THE WORLD'S WAY** – Not so long ago a survey reported that 74 percent of Americans said they would steal from someone they thought could afford it; 64 percent would lie as long as no one is hurt; 93 percent say they decide moral issues based on their own judgment; and 81 percent have violated a law they felt was inapplicable. For many people today, God is impeached; His decisions reversed, and no one can say what's wrong or right. Our way has become God's way.

**SCRIPTURE SEARCH 1** – Are we supposed to point out right and wrong? Look at these passages and see if you can discern their thinking:

<b>PASSAGE</b>	<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
Matthew 7: 1	What are we not supposed to do?	_____
Luke 6: 37	What are we not supposed to do?	_____.
John 8: 7	According to Jesus, who could judge?	_____
From these passages, it would seem that we should avoid sitting in judgment upon others. But there are other passages that say something quite different. Look at these verses and answer the questions:		
John 20: 23	What power did Jesus give?	_____
Matthew 16: 19	What keys did Jesus bestow?	_____
1 Corinthians 5: 3	What had Paul done in regard to the sinner?	_____
1 Corinthians 5: 4	What does Paul encourage the church to do?	_____
Matthew 23	What does Jesus do to the Pharisees?	_____
Galatians 2: 14	What did Paul do to Peter?	_____

**FIRST APPLICATION:**

What are Christians to believe? How should they live? What is God's way? Let's take a second look at our first group of passages and see if we can find harmony.

**2. SCRIPTURE SEARCH - THE WAY OF GOD IS GOOD AND BEST**

We read Matthew 7: 1 and Luke 6: 37. Jesus did not stop with the words contained in those verses. He continued speaking. Reexamine these words of our Lord.

<b>PASSAGE</b>	<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
Matthew 7: 2	What will happen here?	_____
Luke 6: 38	What will happen if you judge?	_____
In these texts we see Jesus is not telling us to refrain from judgment. He is telling us to be careful of the measure that we use in our judgments. We dare not set a level that will make us pharisaic. Let's look at the John passage. There, Jesus said, "only the sinless should throw the first stone."		
Who in the crowd that day was sinless?		_____
Since Jesus isn't visibly around today, who can ever 'throw a stone'?		_____

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Does that mean we shouldn't judge? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Does God ever do that? Yes....read: \_\_\_\_\_  
 1 Corinthians 6: 9-10 Who should be warned that they aren't going to inherit God's kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_

Are those words a judgment? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Who do they come from? \_\_\_\_\_

Having answered those questions, many people come to the conclusion they should judge everything and anything. That's not so. If we learned, in the first group of passages, to judge according to God's way, the second group of passages also teach us something. Please answer the questions:

<b>PASSAGE</b>	<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
John 20: 23	Did Jesus give the power to everyone?	_____
Matthew 16: 19	Who was to have this power Jesus gave?	_____
1 Corinthians 5: 3	Who did Paul say should judge the sinner?	_____
Matthew 23	Who judged the Pharisees?	_____
Galatians 2: 14	Where did Paul straighten out Peter?	_____

Judges are appointed by God to perform that action. In the church, most sins are judged by the congregation, or their representative.

Of course, judgments are never made lightly and always with a purpose. What are those purposes?  
 1 Corinthians 5: 6 What will happen if a sin goes unchecked? \_\_\_\_\_  
 James 5: 10-20 What are we trying to do? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Galatians 6: 1 What should we avoid? \_\_\_\_\_

**THOUGHT & ILLUSTRATION:** - As we talk about God's way of judgment, a couple of final thoughts come to mind. The first is best told in the story of a vacationer who asked an old fisherman, "If I were to fall into this water, would I drown?" The fisherman had a good answer. He said, "Fallin' into the water doesn't drown anybody. It's \_\_\_\_\_ that does." So, too with sin. We are all sinners. By Jesus' blood, rescue is a reality. Only staying in sin kills us eternally. God's way is for those appointed to judge, and using His standards, to rescue souls from death and cover a multitude of sins" (James 5:19-20)

**THE WAY OF PRAYER** – Dear Lord, as Your children, we have the responsibility of building up one another, of reviving the sagging loyalties of negligent fellow Christians, of applying the saving ointment of brotherly admonition. Grant those who are appointed to judge the meekness and faithfulness to call people to Your way. In Jesus' Name. Amen.