

NEWS AND VIEWS
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*“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But He said to him, "Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?" (Luke 12:13-14)

Someone in the crowd. This is what I love about the Word of God. The relevance of the Word of God to the conflicted life of *someone in the crowd*. Even today, anyone can be that someone. The *someone* of that day had a problem to solve. And he had an agenda to serve. He came to the right source, or more appropriately, the right source of truth came to him even though he didn't seem to see Jesus that way. Even a Roman governor betrayed the same lack of recognition when he asked the question *What is truth?* In the Luke passage Jesus identifies the problem of greed as the motivation of the question of someone in the crowd. Sin is always the problem behind the conflict. Jesus is always the solution to the dilemma. He often seems to answer His question with a question as in this passage, *Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?* It seems to me that to find the truth we have to know who we're talking to, or more importantly, know Who is talking to us.

More and more today I hear the questions of *someone in the crowd*. Questions of morality and legality. Questions about the so-called progression toward a more tolerant society and the relaxation of institutional standards. Whether in the classroom or the courtroom, *Someone in the crowd* is asking where this may all be headed. The time tested institution of traditional marriage between one man and one woman that has been declared by God Himself has now been set aside by judges who have either been elected or appointed to places of authority. I am standing in place of someone in the crowd as I ask two questions... *Who in the world appointed and elected these judges...and what were we thinking as a culture?*

The second question perhaps can shed some light on the first. As a culture we have been given over to our self-centered desires when God's desires are not central to our standard of living. In America we generally define the standard of living according to accumulation of wealth, pursuit of pleasures, and comfortable convenience in our lifestyles while the true standard of living degenerates into a culture of death. When the truth of God has been suppressed in unrighteousness, an unrighteous culture will steadily and stealthily move from bad to worse. The evidence is a culture that not only embraces ungodliness but celebrates its presence and worships its convenience. What we are looking at in our land is a progressively desolate environment.

I am an avowed *two-issue* voter. You cannot gain my vote with promises of prosperity, alluring and pleasurable convenience, absolute guarantees of security, advantageous tax breaks, or comparatively cheap gasoline but you can lose it very quickly. I will not give my vote to anyone who advocates same-sex marriage or abortion on demand. And I will not give my vote for anyone that will not vote against it. In 1973 unrighteous judges declared the legal right to destroy the life of the unborn and abandoned moral clarity. Our culture began to grow moral cataracts. We lost our vision...and the blind have led the blind. It has taken a little over 40 years for this *right to choose death* to manifest itself in our land. God has not been asleep for 40 years as some *somebodies in the crowd* chose death. Now the same voices in the crowd are crowing freedom when they are destined for judgment. *Who in the world appointed and elected these judges?* Worldly people choosing death and not life. **The problem** is still sin...**the answer** is still Jesus...and **the goal** is still LIFE! Are you living the life and light of Christ before a world that is getting darker and darker by the day?

This week I have been encouraged to hear of some magistrates who have refused to marry same sex couples. The orders they were given were to comply or resign from their office. They are the voices of someone in the crowd saying I will not obey the law of men...the law of God rules. I am encouraged to hear pastors in our nation opposing an unrighteous mayor's edict designed to bully those in the pulpit into silence by intimidation from preaching about moral issues. I am encouraged that some voices in the crowd are *not ashamed of the gospel...for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes...the time is fulfilled...the kingdom of God is at hand...repent...and believe the gospel...* are you preaching the gospel today instead of screaming into the darkness? Are you the living gospel, able to give an account for the hope that is in you? Our Righteous Judge King Jesus is coming...let us be found preaching the gospel and praying for our culture. Our Hope...Christ in us...Praise the Lord...Jesus saves...*I feel like our time ain't long...*

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam