

## BY WHAT STANDARD

2Cor 10:12

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Publicans (those considered to be low class people) lived by the standard of returning good for good Lk 6:32,33
- B. Is this the standard by which we are living. Are we just measuring ourselves by ourselves? 2Cor 10:12
- C. We must measure ourselves by the right standard.
- D. So, by what standard are we measuring ourselves

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. CHRISTIANS EXPECTED TO LIVE BETTER AND DO MORE THAN THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD

- A. Religion is worth little if it does not make us better than average
  1. Raised to walk in newness of life Rom 6:3,4; 2Cor 5:17
  2. Once darkness, now light Eph 5:8
  3. Be different from the world Rom 12:2
  4. Once walked according to the world but have put on the new man Col 3:7-10
- B. The righteousness of self-righteous Pharisee not sufficient Matt 23:1-7
  1. Many standards today but most times not real one
  2. Some Christians attend no more, pray no more, study no more, work no more and love no more than religious neighbors
  3. Some groups meet as early as 7 A.M.
  4. Some work very diligently from door to door
  5. Are we willing to exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees Matt 5:20

#### II. WE ARE IN CONSTANT DANGER OF BEING DRAGGED DOWN BY "MR & MRS AVERAGE"

- A. Most are satisfied to live up to standards of average
- B. Contrast Biblical standards with standards of average
  1. Taking human life Lk 18:20
  2. Faithfulness in marriage Matt 19:9; Lk 16:18
  3. Truthfulness in speech Eph 4:25
  4. Non-resistance to evil Rom 12:17-19
  5. Love even for enemies Lk 6:27; Rom 12:20
  6. Taking property of others Eph 4:28
  7. Foul speech Eph 4:29; Col 3:8
  8. Intoxicating beverages 1Pet 4:3; 1Thess 5:22
    - a. "Excess of wine" = drunkenness
    - b. "Reveling" = carousal, the things incidental to or that go with drunkenness
    - c. "Banqueting" = carousings, a drinking, not simply a banquet, but a drinking bout
  9. Obeying civil laws Rom 13:1-7

10. Thinking only of self Phil 2:4

11. Religion of Jesus is exclusive Matt 15:9,13

- C. Contrasts noticed should be sufficient to prove beyond any shadow of a doubt that we as God's children must excel the average

#### III. JESUS, NOT MAN, IS CHRISTIAN'S STANDARD

- A. Jesus left us an example 1Pet 2:21
- B. Jesus is **THE** way Jhn 14:6
- C. Note again what Paul said about measuring ourselves by ourselves 2Cor 10:12 (*Amplified: Not that we [have the audacity to] venture to class or [even to] compare ourselves with some who exalt and furnish testimonials for themselves! However, when they measure themselves with themselves and compare themselves with on another, they are without understanding and behave unwisely.*)

### CONCLUSION:

- A. We as Christians are expected to follow the example left by Jesus 1Pet 2:21
- B. The standard set by our Lord is far above the average
- C. Let's examine ourselves and see if we have been satisfied with just average
- D. If we have been and still are: then **"BY WHOSE STANDRD ARE WE LIVING?"**