

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Folly Of Hasty Judgment

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Walking in wisdom involves making judgments. Solomon, revealing the wisdom of God, teaches us to be careful in forming our judgments. He writes, “*He that giveth answer before he heareth, It is folly and shame unto him*” (Proverbs 18:13).

This past week, over the public airwaves, our President formed a judgment over what the Cambridge Police Department in Massachusetts did through one of its officers in arresting Louis Gates at his residence. Even though he admitted that he did not know all the facts in the case, the President said the police department acted “stupidly” in arresting the black Harvard professor at his home.

The facts concerning the case will surface. Knowing the facts will lead to a proper judgment. But this is the “teachable moment.” To make a judgment of another’s actions without first hearing all the facts is foolish and shameful. It is foolish and shameful because once the facts are in, one might see that the premature judgment was far off base.

One will then have to backtrack and correct his answer. Wisdom in not making a judgment before the facts are known will keep one from looking foolish when the facts merit a different judgment. In this case, it would have kept a busy President from wasting time over wishful thinking, wishing he had at least “recalibrated” his condemning words.

“Pre-judging” is the very essence of “prejudice”. Race relations is not the only area where judgment without the facts raises its ugly head; it also occurs in forming religious beliefs. Our faith should come from what the word of God clearly reveals (Romans 10:17). But many, without investigating the whole truth, believe what others say. We should be taught all of what God has revealed (Acts 20:27) and refuse to make judgments based upon “appearance”, but on the basis of the “righteous” standard found in the gospel of Christ (Jn. 7:24, Romans 1:17). Prejudice says we are “unloving” when we condemn homosexuality. Yet the facts are that homosexual acts will keep one from heaven (I Corinthians 6:10). True love for one’s soul, is being manifested when one

implores one to turn from this or any other damning illicit sexual relationship (Acts 3:19).

We may see our neighbor or fellow Christian do things that on the surface we think we would never do, or one should not do. For example, we may be quick to condemn a parent for turning their back on a child, or the decision of elders in the church to not support a certain preacher.

To speak out, condemning the various actions, before we have heard all the facts is a foolish thing to do, bringing shame upon us. The parent may be refusing to give more money to support a lazy son or daughter who will not work to improve their own life, and have merely become parasites on others. The elders may have information as to the error a certain preacher preaches and are unwilling to have the souls they oversee subjected to the influence of such error. We should always believe the best in others (I Corinthians 13:7), and then only give answer regarding a matter or character of others after we have heard all the facts.