

THE SIGN SAID “STOP”

April 23, 2017

An unknown author wrote the following:

The sign said, “STOP.” I didn’t. So, I said to the judge:

1. I think every person has the right to choose his own interpretation of this word.
2. My father didn’t believe he had to stop. If I were to stop, I would be condemning him.
3. My family had always refused to stop. If that is good enough for them, it is good enough for me.
4. I have gone so long without stopping. I just don’t think I can start at this time.
5. My preacher says I don’t have to stop.
6. My parents made me stop when I was young, so I just don’t do it now.
7. What about those who have never seen the sign?
8. I believe only going is essential. Stopping is optional.
9. How do you know the word “stop” really means today what it did when it was written?
10. I’ll stop after I get my life straightened out.
11. I’ll stop when my wife decides to stop. It would mean more if we did it together.
12. It’s nobody’s business whether I stop or not.
13. I feel that as long as we are all sincere, Your Honor, that you will accept us no matter what we do.

We can all imagine what look of disbelief might decorate the judge’s face before he passes sentence and triumphantly slams down the gavel. These excuses do not matter in the least to the fact that a law exists, the law was broken, and a judge has been appointed to uphold that law.

These excuses are noticeably the same excuses men have used in attempt to pardon themselves from obeying God’s law, in the New Testament, that is “*the law of liberty*” (Jas. 1:25; 2:12), “*the law of Christ*” (Gal. 6:2), “*the law of faith*” (Rom. 3:27). All men living today are amenable to that law and will be judged by it. “*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*” (Hebrews 9:27). We may consider the previous verse a court summons of which none will be guilty of “failure to appear.” There is a righteous judge appointed who will judge according to that law (Jn. 12:48). The pleas for additional mercy by those who die in sin are negated by the fact that our judge is (1) a righteous judge (2Tim. 4:8) and (2) He has bound himself to His word (Jn. 12:48; Ps. 138:2).

We are not only told that every man will be judged according to their works (1Pet. 1:17), i.e. adherence to the law of Christ, but we are also given a look into the future: “*And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works*” (Revelation 20:12–13).

The law says “stop sinning” (Rom. 6:1,2). Repent of previous sins and have them covered by the blood of Christ (Acts 3:19; Rev. 1:5). Will you obey the law of Christ or will you trust your fate to one of the above statements.