

# Who Is Approved?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**2 Corinthians 18.** "For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth."

We want to be approved by the Lord and to be accepted by him. As humans we have to look carefully at ourselves and at God's word. If we are not careful we can get off track and think that we are doing his will when we are doing our own will. Consider the religious leaders that opposed Jesus. They would never have thought that they were doing anything but what God wanted them to do. How wrong they were for they fought against God and crucified the Son of God.

It is dangerous to get wrapped up in our own ideas and think that we know so much. Remember what the word of God says in **1 Corinthians 8:1**, "Knowledge puffeth up." The Pharisees, along with other groups, thought that they were experts on the law and the prophets and that Jesus was an uneducated man who was a nobody. Imagine their shock and anger when Jesus called them hypocrites and blind leaders of the blind.

So many of the Jews thought that being children of

Abraham made them pleasing to God. They made an outward show of keeping the law, offering sacrifices and tithes of herbs. They could do all of these things and yet had no trouble hiring men to lie and to try to convict the innocent of sin. Isn't it something when they could pay thirty pieces of silver to Judas to betray Jesus, but could not return it to the temple treasury because it was blood money. These were the same men who had made the deal with Judas and paid him the money.

Jesus asked the question in **Luke 6:46**, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say." This question should not be read over and dismissed for it is still pertinent to this day. Are we doing what the Lord has told us to do, or are we doing what we want to do? There are those who do what they want and have no problem ignoring scripture that they don't care for. I have had some tell me that a verse doesn't mean what it says, and some will even mock and laugh at some verses in the bible.

Others think that they are alright because of what they don't do. Some will proudly say that they have never touched alcohol or some other thing that they haven't done. That is fine and many of us wish that we could say that we have never done such things either, but many people can't say the same. Still the truth is that whether

we have done, or not done, some sinful things if we have come to the Lord in faith and obeyed his word then we are forgiven the same as those who have not done many bad things. It is not what we have done, but what the Lord has done that is important. Our faith should be in Jesus and his saving grace, not in what we think good of ourselves.

If a person looks at others and judges himself by what he sees in others he may be tempted to think too much of himself. For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. **2 Corinthians 10:12.**

The only thing that matters is what the Lord thinks of us, not what we think of ourselves. Yes, we might not do some of the bad things that some folks do, but that don't make us acceptable in the eyes of God. To be approved of God is to come in faith to the Lord Jesus, confessing our sins, repenting of them, and being baptized for the remission of sins and then living for the Lord. "There is no other way to be saved. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved," **Acts 4:12.**

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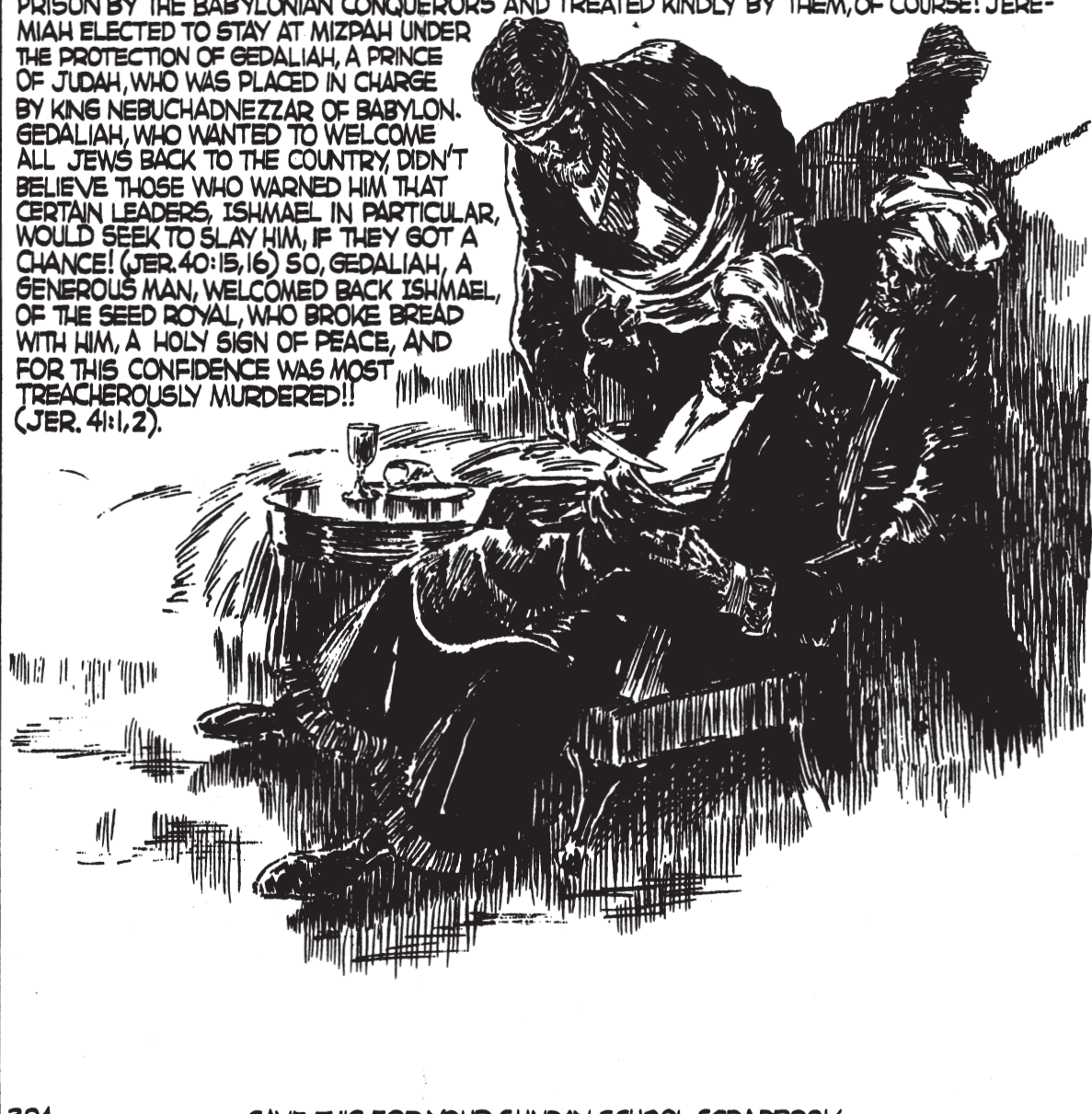
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**ANCIENT POLITICAL RIVALS IN THE BIBLE!**

THE POLITICAL POLICIES WERE THE GUIDING LIGHT IN THE LIVES OF THE LEADERS OF THE GOVERNING PARTY BOTH IN ISRAEL AND JUDAH - RELIGION WAS ONLY FOR THE PRIESTS AND PROPHETS! HOWEVER, IF A STRONG PROPHET, SUCH AS JEREMIAH, STIRRED UP THE PEOPLE, THEN THE GOVERNING LEADERS TOOK NOTICE - IN JEREMIAH'S CASE THEY PUT HIM IN JAIL! (JER. 37: 15, 16). WHEN JEREMIAH'S PROPHECIES CAME TRUE AND THE POLITICAL LEADERS, THAT PUT THEIR HOPES IN EGYPT OVER THE BABYLONIANS, HAD TO FLEE THE COUNTRY, JEREMIAH WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON BY THE BABYLONIAN CONQUERORS AND TREATED KINDLY BY THEM, OF COURSE! JEREMIAH ELECTED TO STAY AT MIZPAH UNDER THE PROTECTION OF GEDALIAH, A PRINCE OF JUDAH, WHO WAS PLACED IN CHARGE BY KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR OF BABYLON. GEDALIAH, WHO WANTED TO WELCOME ALL JEWS BACK TO THE COUNTRY, DIDN'T BELIEVE THOSE WHO WARNED HIM THAT CERTAIN LEADERS, ISHMAEL IN PARTICULAR, WOULD SEEK TO SLAY HIM, IF THEY GOT A CHANCE! (JER. 40: 15, 16) SO, GEDALIAH, A GENEROUS MAN, WELCOMED BACK ISHMAEL, OF THE SEED ROYAL, WHO BROKE BREAD WITH HIM, A HOLY SIGN OF PEACE, AND FOR THIS CONFIDENCE WAS MOST TREACHEROUSLY MURDERED!! (JER. 41: 1, 2).



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