

4) 2/16/73 1 Sam. 16:7

that. Someone would say, Look at that big tall ungainly fellow, we don't want a minister like that. Someone would say, Look at the nasal quality of that man's voice as he talks. We don't want a minister like that. And the man might be a godly man, a man who really knew the Word of God, and then someone would come in there and tear the Scripture to pieces, but he was attractive, pleasant, a good speaker. And the people would say, O my ~~what~~ ^{what} a wonderful man. What a fine personality. Let's get him for our pastor. Man judges by the outward appearance, but God ~~judges~~ ^{judges} by the heart. I resolved after seeing two or three of these cases, I resolved that before God if a man is tearing down the Word of God and is going contrary to God's will, I'm not going to praise other aspects that will advance him. And if a man truly is trying to advance God's work I'm going to speak well of him. If I can talk privately to him and give him some suggestions that may be helpful, I'm glad to do it, but I'm not going to say anything in public that will hurt his ministry even if there be points on which I may disagree with him, or things of minor importance on which I think he may be wrong. This is the tendency of mankind - to look at appearances instead of looking at the heart.

It is not only the tendency of mankind, it is the tendency of even the finest of men sometimes to judge by appearances. Here was ~~Samuel~~ ^{Sam}, that great prophet, ~~that~~ ^{that} man who had done so much for God's cause. That man who stood so true to God, and Samuel looked at Eliab and said, Surely this the Lord's anointed. You will find that even the best of people will at times look at the appearance instead of looking at the reality, ~~looking~~ ^{looking} at the heart. Our Lord Jesus Christ brought out the same truth in the Gospel of John. There he showed exactly how different it is, the way people are apt to look and the way that we really ought to look at things. We find it in John 7:23-24 (reading text). And this word translated here "appearance" occurs -- this word *opsis* occurs 3 times in the NT. In this case it is translated appearance, in one case face, in one case countenance. You see the exact parallel to the OT statement. Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart. Jesus said, Don't judge by the appearance, by the face, by the countenance. Judge righteous judgment. We are going to have many problems in life where we are facing situations and our tendency isto say, This is what I have been brought up to believe. This is what my parents said, this is what my denomination has always said. This is the attitude that Christian people think is right. That's not