

Judgment Is Certain

Text : **Romans 2: 1-11**

INTRODUCTION :

A. Certain concepts are inherently linked with Christianity.

For example :

1. Faith in the one true God
2. Faith that Jesus is the Only Begotten Son of that one true God.
3. Faith that Jesus was resurrected and that we will also be resurrected.
4. Anticipation of eternal life in Heaven or in Hell.
5. Faith in salvation by grace through faith in Jesus.

B. One of those fundamental concepts inherent in Christianity is universal Judgment.

1. Western “PC” culture finds any talk of judgment or condemnation to be repulsive.
2. Christians believe they will be resurrected to eternal life in Heaven.
 - a. The same bible which teaches about Heaven, also teaches about Hell.
 - b. Heaven is only for the saved.
3. The time will come when the earth will be destroyed.

II Pet. 3: 10-13 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹ Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹² looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

- a. When the earth ends, the population has to go somewhere ... Heaven or Hell.
- b. Since the wicked cannot enter Heaven (righteous), there must be a time of dividing.
- c. This time of dividing is called the Day of Judgment.

C. One cannot have faith in Jesus w/o believing in the final Day of Judgment.

Therefore, with this lesson we'll examine some things the bible says about judgment. We will observe that Judgment :

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| 1. Is certain | 5. Will be based upon God's Standard |
| 2. Will come without warning | 6. Will be totally just |
| 3. Will include everyone, living or dead | 7. Will not be a trial (no courtroom scene) |
| 4. Will be executed solely by Jesus | |

I. There will most certainly be a day of final judgment.

A. Jesus taught many parables about the coming judgment.

1. Luke 12

- a. **Vs. 36** Master returning from a feast.
- b. **Vs. 41** Steward's judgment when Master returning after lengthy absence.

2. Matt. 25

- a. **Vs. 1** Ten Virgins
- b. **Vs. 14** Talents (... several others)

B. The doctrine of the judgment was taught by the Apostles.

1. The Apostle Paul taught it as part of his evangelistic message.

- a. **Acts 24: 25-** **But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you."**
- b. One seeks a savior only when he realizes that he needs one.

2. The Hebrew writer list "eternal judgment" as one of the first principles.

- a. **Heb. 6: 1-2** **Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,² of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.**
- b. Thus, ALL Christians should know about the judgment.

C. When we talk with people about the gospel, we must warn them of judgment to come.

II. The judgment will come without warning.

A. God has appointed a day :

Acts. 17: 30-31 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent,
³¹ **because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.**

B. The judgment will come when no one expects it.

I Thes. 5: 2-3 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.³ While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. (**No last minute preparation**)

III. The judgment will include everyone ... living or dead.

A. Believers and non-believers alike will bow before the judge of the world.

1. Every person will be individually judged.

Rom. 14: 10-12 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹² So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

2. Even those who have died will be judged.

Phil. 2: 9-10 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in Heaven and on earth and under the earth,

B. The spirit beings will also be judged, not just mankind. (all God's creation)

1. **John 12:31-** Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.
2. **II Pet. 2:4-** For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;

C. Jesus will call the dead out of the graves to be judged.

1. **I Pet. 4: 4-5** In all this, they are surprised that you do not run with them into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign you; ⁵ but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.
2. **Read ... John 5:25-29**

IV. Jesus Himself will be the judge. (The one who is currently seeking to save the lost.)

A. Jesus reigns as sovereign of the universe.

1. **Matt. 28: 18-** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth.
2. **Eph. 1: 20-22a** ... what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet, ...

B. The Father has appointed the Son (Jesus) to be the judge of the world.

1. **John 5: 22-** For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,
2. **Remember ... Acts 17: 31** ... God appointed Jesus to be the judge of the world.
3. **II Tim. 4:1-** I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:

V. Only Jesus / God can set the standard for judgment.**A. Men have set many standards through the years.**

1. Some have been good and some have not. (**Kill unborn babies and the elderly**)
2. One can be “**highly esteemed among men,**” but “**detestable**” to God. Cf - **Luke 16:15**

B. Jesus / God has a law under which all men will be judged.

1. It is called the Law of Sin and Death. **Rom. 8:1-2** (**If one sins, he dies.**)
2. Only in Christ can one be freed from that law.
***One must choose to be under that system of grace BEFORE judgment day.**

C. Jesus has made the standard known now ... in advance of judgment.

1. **John 12:48-** He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.
2. Ignorance of the law is not an acceptable excuse.
3. **As the followers of the great king, we are responsible to make His will known.**

VI. The judgment will be completely just. (**The Judge is just; the standard is just ...**)**A. Being God, Jesus is totally consistent.** (**No man can be consistent.**)**B. Jesus will be a totally impartial judge.**

1. **I Pet. 1:17-** If you address as Father the One who impartially judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves in fear during the time of your stay on earth;
2. The basis of judgment will be 100% factual, **not** emotional. (**God loves all men.**)

C. God is not influenced by :

1. By Bribes ... **Deut. 10:17-** For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe. (**No I.O.U.s**)

2. By Prejudice or Partiality ...

- a. **Matt. 5: 43-45** You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.
- b. **John 7: 24-** Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment

3. By Cultural Values ... (**That which man accepts. e.g. evil was accepted in Sodom.**)

- a. He is not from this world. (**Thus, He has no earthly cultural bias.**)
John 8:23- And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. (Cf - **John 18: 36**)
- b. He commands His followers not to be attached to this world.
I John 2: 15- Do not love the world nor the things in the world. ... Cf - **John 17: 13ff**

VII. The judgment will not be a trial. (**There will be no courtroom scene.**)**A. All of the facts are in, the verdict has been made, sentence will be announced.**

1. There will be no plea-bargains.
2. There will be no evidence presented or arguments made.
3. All of the facts are clearly understood and the motives for them are indisputable.

I Cor. 4:5- Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

B. Each person will individually give an account for every act he did while on earth.

1. **II Cor. 5:10-** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
2. **Matt. 12:36-** But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

CONCLUSION :**A. We have seen that there is a great and a final Day of Judgment.**

That Judgment is :

1. Is certain
2. Will come without warning

3. Will include everyone, living or dead
4. Will be executed solely by Jesus
5. Will be based upon God's Standard
6. Will be totally just
7. Will not be a trial

B. That will be a day of great sorry for many :

1. **Heb. 10: 30-31** For we know Him who said, "*Vengeance is mine, I will repay.*" And again, "*The Lord will judge His people.*" ³¹ It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
2. **II Thes. 1: 7b-9** ... when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, ⁸ dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
3. There is NO sin which will go undisclosed or unpunished.
Nah. 1:3- The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And the LORD will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished.

C. All who have sinned will be punished for every sin they've committed.

1. The punishment for sin is death ... separation from God ... **Rom. 6: 23**
2. Everyone sins ... **Rom. 3: 10, 23**
3. Remember the nature of sin. (**Previous lesson ... violate law of God, state or self ... think evil thoughts ... fail to do good ... fall short of God's glory**)

D. Those who are in Christ are freed from the judgment.

1. **Rom. 8:2-** ... **Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.**
2. **Rom. 5: 4-** ... **but sin is not imputed when there is no law.**
3. Righteousness is imputed to the Christian because of his faith. ... **Jas 2:23, Rom 4:22f**

D. The Christian stands in the judgment w/o fear, anticipating his reward.

1. **I John 4: 17-18**
2. **Jude 24**
3. **Rev. 2:10** - cf - **I Pet. 1: 3-9** (**We will rejoice to receive the outcome of our faith.**)

INVITATION :

Choose before it is too late ... Judgment is coming.

Will you be judged by merit or by grace?

Heb. 9: 27