

The Basis For Our Judgment

Matthew 7:21-23 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

Introduction:

- A. One of the most common warnings in Scriptures is: God will judge all mankind in the last day. Preparation for this is the most important activity of our lives. If God rejects us at Judgment, absolutely nothing else of this life will matter. No amount of possessions, fame or even love for another person will be worth hearing God say, "Depart from me" (Matt. 7:23).
- B. Since this is such a serious subject, we all should want to know what we can do to get ready for that day. Finding the right answers and acting upon them now will determine whether we enjoy the presence of God in heaven or suffer the honors of hell for eternity. We should ask, "What must I do to be accepted at Judgment?" Another way to ask the same question is, "What must I do to be saved?"
- C. We must begin to answer this question with the very foundation of our salvation. To be saved, we must believe in Jesus. Without this, all the good works one might do will not get him into heaven. One of the most common misconceptions people have today is that we are saved by faith alone. True, faith is absolutely essential to our salvation, and the Bible mentions it on numerous occasions, but whether God accepts or rejects us at the Judgment is not based only on whether we believed in Jesus.
- D. Even most who teach we are saved by faith alone are not consistent with their doctrine. At funerals there is usually an attempt to comfort the mourners by assuring them the deceased is now in a better place. On what do they base this? You usually hear the speaker talk about how good a husband, father, neighbor, etc., the deceased was? They will always try and find something good the person did while alive. They are admitting the obvious, that is; not only must we believe in Jesus, we must also live an obedient life. This is not to say we work our way into heaven. No man can do this. But we must strive to make our lives conform to God's standards, knowing it is still by the grace of God we can be saved because we will fail to obey perfectly.
- E. There are several passages describing the Judgment and how it will be conducted. Not of them says the basis for acceptance or rejection is based on whether we believed in Jesus or not. They ALL teach that Judgment will be based on our actions. Yes, we are saved by faith, but the only kind of faith that saves is an obedient faith (Rom. 1:5 and 16:26; Matt 25:14-30; 25:31-46).

Romans 1:5 - through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,

Romans 16:26 - but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith;

Matthew 25:14-30 - "For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. In the same

manner the one who had received the two talents gained two more. But he who received the one talent went away, and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those slaves *came and *settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Also the one who had received the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no seed. And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.' But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no seed. Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my money back with interest. Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.' For to everyone who has, more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:31-46 - "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.' Then they themselves also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

E. This teaching is consistent throughout the Bible

I. ***Bible Teachings On Judgment***

A. In the Beginning of the Bible: - Gen. 4:7

Genesis 4:7 - "If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

B. Before Abraham: - Job 34:10-11

Job 34:10-11 - "Therefore, listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do wickedness, And from the Almighty to do wrong. For He pays a man according to his work, And makes him find it according to his way.

C. During the Law of Moses - Prov. 24:11-12; Jer. 17:10; 32:19; Ezek. 33:18-20

Proverbs 24:11-12 - Deliver those who are being taken away to death, And those who are staggering to slaughter, Oh hold them back. If you say, "See, we did not know this," Does He not consider it who weighs the hearts? And does He not know it who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work?

Jeremiah 17:10 - "I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.

Jeremiah 32:19 - great in counsel and mighty in deed, whose eyes are open to all the ways of the sons of men, giving to everyone according to his ways and according to the fruit of his deeds;

Ezekiel 33:18-20 - "When the righteous turns from his righteousness and commits iniquity, then he shall die in it. But when the wicked turns from his wickedness and practices justice and righteousness, he will live by them. Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not right.' O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways."

D. The Teaching of Jesus - Matt. 7:21-27; Lk. 13:6-9; Jn. 15:8

Matthew 7:21-27 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.' Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell-- and great was its fall."

E. The Teaching of the Apostles - Rom. 2:5-10; 2 Cor. 5:9-10; Gal. 6:7-10; Eph. 5:3-7; Col. 3:23-25; 1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Tim. 4:14; Heb. 2:2-3; 10:26-30; Jas. 1:26; 1 Pet. 1:17; Rev. 2:23

Romans 2:5-10 - But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 - Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. 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.

Galatians 6:7-10 - Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Ephesians 5:3-7 - But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them;

Colossians 3:23-25 - Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

1 Timothy 5:8 - But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

2 Timothy 4:14 - Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.

Hebrews 2:2-3 - For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

Hebrews 10:26-30 - For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE."

James 1:26 - If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless.

1 Peter 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;

Revelation 2:23 - 'And I will kill her children with pestilence, and all the churches will know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts; and I will give to each one of you according to your

deeds.

II. *The Conclusion of the Bible*

A. Rev.20:12-13

Revelation 20:12-13 - And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

1. Certainly, belief in Jesus will be a one factor, but alone it is not enough!

a. James makes this same point - Jas. 2:19

James 2:19 - You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

b. It is because the Judgment will be based on our lives is the very reason we need Jesus.

2. None of us have lived in such a way that we might be accepted by God because of our good works. All of us have failed.

a. We all are in desperate need of forgiveness

b. This is why Jesus had to die

3. He paid the penalty that belongs to us so we might go free. This is the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

4. Yet, this does not mean we are free to not be concerned how we live our lives. God never intended that His Son would die so we would only have to believe to be saved.

B. The Bible still says - Heb. 5:9

1. Writing to Christians, the Hebrew writer warned: - Heb. 10:26-31

Hebrews 10:26-31 - For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who said, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY." And again, "THE LORD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE." It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

2. Why do we have such a serious warning if our actions do not matter after we become a Christian?

C. Those who teach that all we have to do is believe to be saved at the Judgment are deceivers who ignore many passages in God's Word to their own destruction. They follow the words of their father who told Eve that if she disobeyed, "You will not surely die" - Gen. 3:4

Genesis 3:4 - The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!"

1. Eve never stopped believing in God

2. Even then, belief alone was not enough

3. Eve learned the hard way that the life we live also makes a difference.

Conclusion:

A. We Are Still Under the Law of Christ. His Law must be obeyed! He is still the King to which all must bow? The advantage we have today is that we live under a system of Grace. We can be

forgiven when we fail (Lk. 17:7-10).

Luke 17:7-10 - "Which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come immediately and sit down to eat'? But will he not say to him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, and properly clothe yourself and serve me while I eat and drink; and afterward you may eat and drink'? He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he? So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.'"

B. Anyone can say they love Jesus. But Jesus said (Jn. 14:21; 14:15).

John 14:21 - "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

John 14:15 - "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

C. Do you truly love Jesus?