

THE JUDGMENT

Matt 25:31-46

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The days gone when one could expect to hear a "fire and brimstone" sermon from the average pulpit in America.
- B. Many of today's preachers have become too mild in their approach: seem to know only God's love. They have turned the heat of hell into the coolness of a summer resort.
- C. Need reminding the Bible which reveals God is a God of love, reveals He is a God of vengeance on those who do not obey Him. Rom 11:22; 2Thess 1:7-9.
- D. Whether we think about it or not, God is going to conduct a judgment at the end of this age. Acts 17:30,31.
- E. Since a judgment is going to occur, we need to know something about it.
- F. Knowing something about it will then allow us to make preparations for it.

DISCUSSION:

I. IT WILL BE A UNIVERSAL JUDGMENT.

- A. Death appointed then judgment Heb 9:27.
- B. Just as surely as men die, they will face judgment.
- C. No one will escape that judgment Rom 14:10.
 - 1. Judgment will be universal
 - 3. Everyone born into world must stand before the judgment bar of God. Jhn. 5:19-29.

II. IT WILL BE ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD

- A. Judgment based on gospel Christ Jhn 12:48,49; 14:10; Rom 2:16.
- B. If one doesn't obey gospel be damned 2Thess 1:7-9
- C. Basis for determining whether I will be lost or saved is my name in the book of life Christ Rev 20:11-15.

III. IT WILL BE AN INDIVIDUAL JUDGMENT

- A. All be judged Rom 14:12; 2Cor 5:10.
- B. The fact that my parents were Christians won't help me, nor will my ancestors being hung for horse stealing hurt me.
- C. I will have to stand alone and give account for what I have done in MY body.

IV. IT WILL BE A COMPLETE JUDGMENT.

- A. Nothing will escape God's notice. He will know about things done in secret as well as He knows things done in general public. Heb 4:1-13; Psa 139:1-16.

- B. Judge not only deeds, but also thoughts, Heb 4:12 and words Matt 12:36,37
- C. Judged on basis of what we have done and not done.
- D. I am reminded of the scene in Matt. 25:31-46 goats condemned; not so much for wicked deeds, but for not doing things one who loves his neighbor should do.

V. IT WILL BE A FINAL JUDGMENT.

- A. Today when a court declares a man guilty, he can appeal decision of court and possibly have verdict overturned or reversed.
- B. That will not happen in God's judgment.
 - 1. When sentence passed, wicked sent into eternal punishment and righteous to eternal life Matt 25:46
 - 2. No overturning or reversing the verdict Lk 16:26

CONCLUSION:

- A. Everyone face God's judgment whether planned for or not
- B. God gives each of us an immortal soul; which once brought into existence, it will never cease to exist
- C. We have but one short life to prepare our soul for life with God forever.
- D. In the event we squander the time God gives us to prepare for judgment, we stand condemned before His throne and will be cast into hell.
- E. Even though these are grim thoughts, which might easily be pushed from mind, and not to given due consideration, they are nevertheless true
- F. As a song we use as an invitation says: "Are you ready for that day to come?"
- G. Why not begin now to prepare for the day of judgment by obeying the Lord?

(ideas from sermon by Jim Sasser)