

GREAT BIBLE TRUTHS

26. The Last Things (3)



An Introduction

Following the resurrection of all men there will be a time of judgement. The Bible often speaks of it as 'The Day' or 'The Day of Judgement' but this doesn't necessarily mean it is a day of 24 hours. It is referring to the time in the future when we will have to stand before the judgement seat of God. John 5:28-29, Acts 17:31, Revelation 20:12-13

1. THE JUDGE

- God has committed the task of judgement to the Son. John 5:22, 27, Acts 10:42, Romans 2:16
- When Jesus comes again he will come as Judge. Matthew 25:31-32
- Judgement will be executed by the angels. Matthew 13:41-42, Revelation 14:17-20

2. JUDGEMENT OF ALL MANKIND

God's judgement will be universal and inescapable. It will include all nations (Matthew 25:32), men and women (Hebrews 9:27), the small and great (Revelation 20:12), the living and the dead (2 Timothy 4:1), the wicked and the righteous. (Ecclesiastes 3:17)

What are the principles on which judgement will be made?

a. Our Works

- Judgement will be according to man's good or evil deeds. Matthew 25:31-46, Romans 2:6-11, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Revelation 20:12
- Those who have done evil stand condemned. Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 2:1-3, 5:3-6
- We are not saved by works, but by the grace of God, however good works are evidence of our new life in Christ.

b. Our Attitude to Christ and the Gospel

- Connected to the above is judgement according to our attitude to Christ. John 3:16-21, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9
- Man is automatically lost because he is a sinner, but if he has deliberately refused God's mercy in Christ, his condemnation will be worse. Matthew 11:20-24, Luke 11:31, Hebrews 10:26

c. The Degree of Light we have

- God is just, so he takes into account the measure of light we have been given. Matthew 11:21-24, Romans 2:12-16
- All have received some light and all have sinned against the light they do have:
 - Those who have had no opportunity to know the law or gospel will be judged according to the law of conscience. Romans 2:14-15
 - Those who have the Law of Moses will be judged by it. Romans 2:12
 - Those who have heard the gospel and rejected it increase their condemnation. Matthew 11:20-24

d. Impartial

- God is no respecter of persons. Romans 2:11. No individual or nation will have reason for having special treatment.
- The greater light and privileges we have here, the greater the responsibility. Luke 12:48
- Judgement will be individual and personal. Matthew 25:42-45
- Judgement will be related to man's deeds and ways, and according to God's perfect records. Hosea 12:2, Revelation 20:12
- God's judgement will be just. Genesis 18:25, Acts 17:31

3. JUDGEMENT OF UNBELIEVERS

All have sinned, and so all are guilty and under God's judgement. However God has provided salvation for us if we repent of our sin and believe in Jesus Christ, who provided atonement for our sin.

The first part of God's judgement is to separate those who have accepted this provision in Christ, from those who haven't. This is described in various ways: separating the wheat from the tares, the good fish from the bad or the sheep from the goats. Matthew 13:30, 47-48

Those whose names aren't written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be condemned and cast into Hell. Revelation 20:11-15. There are verses that indicate degrees of judgement: Matthew 11:22-24, Luke 12:47-48, 20:47.

4. JUDGEMENT OF BELIEVERS

Our choices in this life determine what our judgement will be. If we come to Christ in repentance and faith, accepting his righteousness and not our own, we will not be condemned. Our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life and we will be with him forever. Luke 10:20, Philippians 4:3, Revelation 20:12, 21:27

However, as believers we must stand before the Judgement Seat of Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:10, 1 Thessalonians 2:19

- Our service and motives will be examined. 1 Corinthians 3:8-14, 4:5
- We will discover the value of the work we have done for Christ. 2 Corinthians 1:14, Philippians 2:16
- What is worthless will be burned up. 1 Corinthians 3:13-15
- There will be rewards for faithful service. Matthew 5:11-12, 25:23, 1 Corinthians 3:14
- These rewards are spoken of as crowns. 1 Corinthians 9:25, 2 Timothy 4:8, James 1:12, 1 Peter 5:4, Revelation 4:10
- There are also degrees of reward. Luke 19:17, 19



Do you think our relationship with the Lord now will make a difference to our relationship with him then? Discuss.



God has given us life and as our Creator we are accountable to him. Everyone will stand before him one day. For those who have accepted his gracious offer of salvation, we will not face condemnation. However we will come before the Lord Jesus. His desire is to reward us for our love and service to him. Let's choose to please him in all we do, so on that day we will hear him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."