

Judgment

God's righteous evaluation of all human beings

Divine judgment stands as a sobering reality that all humanity must face. "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). Scripture consistently teaches that God will hold every person accountable for their lives—thoughts, words, and deeds. This truth, while unsettling to the impenitent, provides comfort to those who trust in Christ's righteousness.

God's judgment is **certain**—no one will escape. It is **just**—perfectly fair, without favoritism or error. It is **comprehensive**—including even secret things. "God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:14). It is **final**—no appeals, no second chances. The Judge of all the earth will do right (Genesis 18:25).

For unbelievers, judgment means condemnation based on their works, which inevitably fall short of God's perfect standard. For believers, judgment has two aspects: Christ bore their condemnation at the cross ("There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus" - Romans 8:1), yet they will still face evaluation of their works for rewards at Christ's judgment seat (2 Corinthians 5:10).

The doctrine of judgment motivates holy living, urgent evangelism, and humble gratitude. Those who grasp the reality of judgment flee to Christ for refuge and warn others to do the same. Far from producing morbid fear, proper understanding of judgment produces wisdom: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10).

Certainty of Judgment

Judgment is unavoidable

Hebrews 9:27 — Appointed unto men to die, then judgment

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Romans 14:12 — Give account of himself to God

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Ecclesiastes 12:14 — Every work into judgment

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Acts 17:31 — Appointed a day to judge

Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Christ the Judge

Jesus as righteous judge

John 5:22 — Father committed all judgment unto the Son

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

2 Timothy 4:1 — Judge the quick and the dead

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Acts 10:42 — Ordained to be the Judge

And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

Matthew 25:31-32 — Shall sit upon the throne of his glory

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Believers' Judgment

Evaluation of Christians' works

2 Corinthians 5:10 — Judgment seat of Christ

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Romans 8:1 — No condemnation in Christ

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 — Fire shall try every man's work

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

Romans 14:10 — Stand before the judgment seat

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

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