

1. Understanding the Judgments of God

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Subtitle: Discerning between the mercy & the wrath of God

- Today we are embarking on a new series of messages to learn about the (future) judgments of God (plural)
- This is regular Bible teaching, to help us understand what will happen in the future (end-times & beyond)
- Many believers tend to lump all the judgments of God together into one single event, and end up quite confused
- Every believer should be able to teach another believer (Col. 3:16)
- Furthermore, every believer should learn about future judgments of God & gain greater boldness & confidence in reaching lost people (Col. 1:28)

1. The truth of God's judgments is foundational truth

Hebrews 6:1–2 (NKJV) *Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.*

- Evidently, eternal judgment is an elementary (foundational) principle
- The Bible speaks about:
 - different kinds of judgments
 - happening at different times
 - in different places
 - involving different groups of people

Hebrews 9:26–28 (NKJV) ... *He (Jesus Christ) has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27 And as **it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,***

- When a Christian dies, their soul & spirit go to heaven to await the resurrection of the body
 - They will appear at the Judgment Seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10)
- When an unbeliever dies, their soul & spirit go to hell to await the resurrection of the body
 - They will appear at the Great White Throne Judgement (Rev. 20:11)

- There is no such thing as purgatory, or a second chance for unbelievers to be saved after death (saved from judgment & its penalty)
- Neither is there any such thing as reincarnation
- Vs. 27. ... *it is appointed for men to die once - after this the judgment*
- What we do, or not do in this life has eternal ramifications & consequences in the life to come
- Once we have crossed over (death), our eternal destiny cannot be altered, swapped or exchanged

2. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is only understood as “Good News” if we understand the judgments of God

- Our eternal salvation is only fully appreciated if we understand the alternative, namely, eternal judgment (damnation)
- The depth of our love for & commitment to Jesus Christ is largely determined by the depth of our understanding of what He has done for us

Luke 7:47 (NLT) *I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so **she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.***

3. When Ap. Paul preached the Gospel, he included God’s judgment

- Ap. Paul preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to Felix, the Roman governor of Judea
- As he did, Paul also spoke about “the judgment to come”

Acts 24:24–25 (NKJV) *And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, **he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.** 25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and **the judgment to come**, Felix was afraid and answered, “Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.”*

- Paul spoke to Felix concerning the faith in Jesus Christ
- He also mentioned “the judgment to come”
- Felix was afraid ... (presumably of the judgment to come!)
- A healthy fear of God & His judgments is a good motivation to get saved

4. Jesus Christ spoke about the Day of Judgment

Matthew 11:20–22 (NKJV) *Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: 21 “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 22 But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.*

- Evidently, there is a day coming called “the Day of Judgment”
- On that day, all who have not repented of their sins will be judged by God
- In the N.T., there are multiple references to “the Day of Judgment”

5. In principle, all judgment due to sin has been laid on Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV) *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.*

- Isaiah chpt. 53 speaks about Jesus Christ, the “suffering Servant”
- He was judged in our stead & suffered on our behalf so we could be forgiven

Isaiah 53:6 (NKJV) *... and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

Vs. 8 *...for the transgressions of My people He was stricken.*

Vs. 11 *... for He shall bear their iniquities.*

Vs. 12 *... and He bore the sin of many ...*

John 5:22–24 (NKJV) *For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. 24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.*

- Notice vs 24. ... he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life
- Why is that so?
- Because all sin, its ensuing judgment & penalty has been laid on Christ

6. A list of future Judgments of God, in the following sequence

a. God's Judgment of the world during the Great Tribulation

- This judgment on wicked people will take place during the second half of the seven year Great Tribulation
 - After the Rapture of the church
 - Before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ
- Key words in the book of Revelation, from chpts. 6 to 19
 - opening of seven seals
 - sounding (blowing) of seven trumpets
 - pouring out of seven vials (bowls)
- each one of these 21 key moments will trigger another judgment of God, as His wrath is poured out on the earth on unrepentant people

b. The Judgment Seat of Christ

- The Judgment Seat of Christ would be better termed "The Reward Seat of Christ", since Christ will reward believers for their faithful service "in this life" (while on earth)
- This Reward Seat of Christ will take place in heaven:
 - After the Rapture of the church
 - Before the Second Coming of Christ
- Only believers will appear at this event

c. The Judgment of Gentile Nations

- This judgment on Gentile nations will take place at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ
- At this event, Christ will separate the goat nations from the sheep nations (based on their treatment of the Jewish people)
 - Goat nations will be sent to hell
 - Sheep nations will be allowed to enter Christ's literal kingdom (Millennial [1,000 year] Reign of Christ)

d. The Great White Throne Judgment

- This judgment will take place at the end of Christ's 1,000 Year Reign
- All the unrighteous dead will be resurrected, judged and thrown into the lake of fire

e. The judgment of satan and all fallen angels

- At the end of Christ's 1,000 Year Reign, satan and all fallen angels will be thrown into the lake of fire, to be tormented forever and ever