

"...BUT AFTER THIS THE JUDGMENT"

HEBREWS 9:27

INTRODUCTION:

1. Death and judgment are realities which we all will face, neither of which makes us very comfortable to consider. (Heb. 9.27)
2. Judgment refers both to the evaluation of our lives as well as the condemnation of the wicked. (Rom. 14.12; John 5.24)
3. What does it mean to stand in the judgment seat of Christ? How will our lives be assessed? What is the nature of judgment?

I. THE JUDGMENT OF GOD IS INDIVIDUAL

- A. One is not judged by the faithfulness or unfaithfulness of the congregation, but by their individual conduct. (2 Cor. 5.10)
 1. Sardis was a congregation far from faithful, yet some had *"not defiled their garments"* (Rev. 3.1-6)
 2. Our salvation is ours to lose. (Phil. 2.12; Gal. 6.1-8)
- B. What is the significance of individual judgment?
 1. I have no excuse to blame my brethren. (Gen. 3.12)
 2. I have no excuse to blame by upbringing. (Ezek. 18.20)
 3. I have no excuse to blame the devil. (James 1.14)

II. THE JUDGMENT OF GOD IS FAIR

- A. God's judgment is by no means to be taken lightheartedly, but is greatly to be feared. (Heb. 10.26-31; 12.29)
- B. Yet is it always preferable to be judged by God rather than being judged by man. (2 Sam. 24.14). Why?
 1. God knows the heart. (1 Cor. 4.5; Heb. 4.12,13)
 2. God is merciful, but not tolerant of sin. (Num. 14.18)
 3. God's judgments are righteous and true. (Rom. 2.1-11)

III. THE JUDGMENT OF GOD IS PROMISED

- A. That God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world is not in dispute. (Acts 17.31; Rom. 14.11)
 1. There is no reason why everyone should not do well on the final day of judgment. (John 12.48)
 2. God wants us to succeed. (Ezek. 33.11; 2 Pet. 3.9)
- B. The judgment day is an appointment from which there is no escape. (1 Thes. 5.3; Heb. 2.3; 12.25; Rom. 2.3)

CONCLUSION: There is a day of judgment coming. Will it be to us a great day for a sad day?

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"...fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God" -Ephesians 2:19

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MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

SALVATION IS NOT A DRY-CLEANING BUSINESS

Some clothes are very delicate and will be damaged if put in a conventional washing machine. On the tag of the article of clothing, it will read, "dry-cleaning only". Therefore one would need to clean them by some other method other than immersing in water.

Sin is a stain on the soul that needs to be cleaned (Isa. 1.18). The cleaning agent is the blood of Christ (1 John 1.7). Through baptism, immersion in water, one is put in contact with the blood of Christ and thus cleansed from his sin. It is not a physical washing, but an act of obedience (1 Pet. 3.21). But nonetheless, salvation cannot come by any other method. Peter answered the guilty Jewish audience who asked how they could resolve their sin: *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.."* (Acts 2.38)

Some believe and teach that salvation can be obtained without the use of water baptism. They believe that they can be dry-cleaned. They believe that salvation can be received by saying a sinner's prayer, or by faith only (James 2.24). However, the Bible is clear. One cannot be saved without getting their whole bodies wet.

It is God who decides the terms of salvation. And He is on record as saying that there is no salvation without water. CLP

SPEAKING THE TRUTH

EPHESIANS 4:25

INTRODUCTION:

1. Truth is loosely defined by one's independent and unique position. But an ice cube is still an ice cube. (John 18.37,38)
2. Because every word spoken by God is true, His word is synonymous with truth. (John 17.17; Eph. 4.21)
3. Having come to the truth, Christians are of the truth, and therefore speak the truth. (1 John 3.19; Eph. 4.25)

I. THE TRUTH IS WHAT MAKES ONE FREE

- A. **JOHN 8.32:** *"You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* Free from what? (John 8.33-36)
1. It is sin that binds us in condemnation, but the truth shows us how to escape. (Rom. 8.1,2; 6.18,19)
 2. However, our liberty is not a freedom from keeping the commands of God. (1 Pet. 2.15,16; 2 Pet. 2.19)
- B. Truth frees us from the worldly ties that bind.
1. Truth frees us from fear, doubt, worry. (1 John 3.19)
 2. Truth frees us from error. (Titus 1.9)

II. TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE LOVERS OF TRUTH

- A. The word of God is clear concerning the incompatibility of faith and lies. (John 8.44; Col. 3.9; 1 Tim. 1.10; Rev. 22.15)
1. Why do so many struggle with speaking the truth? Fear!
 2. The praise of men can move one to lie. (Acts 5.1-4)
 3. Do we hide truth for fear of confrontation? (2 Tim. 3.12)
- B. Being honest with oneself is a great challenge.
1. Our evaluation of faith? (2 Cor. 13.5; Luke 18.9-14)
 2. Our acceptance of doctrine? (2 Tim. 4.3,4; Titus 2.1)

III. "SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE"

- A. Some speak the truth, but with motives to injure others and elevate themselves. (Phil. 1.15-18; 2 Cor. 2.17)
1. Better results come from speaking the truth from a sincere heart. (Eph. 4.15; Gal. 6.1; 1 Pet. 3.15)
 2. Truth is truth regardless of the source. (John 9.34)
- B. Whether sharing the gospel or correcting a brother, love prevents us from holding our peace. (Mark 10.17-22)

CONCLUSION: At the end, all truth will be revealed.

HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN GODLY CHARACTER

...When your boss has none? You may have a boss who is focused on production, not character; profit, not integrity; corporate image, not people. Your boss may push you to conform to the bad behavior of others employees. When business/social obligations arise, you may be under pressure to be right in the middle of party behavior that violates your conscience. Could be, in your work place, honesty is not highly valued.

...When your spouse is no help? Some do not have the ideal mate. Worse, there are wives whose husbands are hostile to the Lord. Therefore, all their commitments to the Lord are discouraged. There are cases where this works the other way. Husbands want to be Christians but their wives rebel. Marriage should be one place where partners value their common faith and support the local church with mutual faith. It's tough when this isn't happening.

...When stress is killing you? Coping with issues of health, finances, family dynamics, job, house maintenance, car trouble, and unexpected events can create a climate of pressure the devil can use against us. It may seem that you cannot genuinely serve the Lord, attend services, read your Bible and pray. Too many other things are going on that require immediate attention. Then this becomes a way of life. Something is always going on, so the Lord's call to your life is permanently put in the background. Eventually it is dismissed altogether.

The answer is, you put your trust in God, keep your life centered in Christ and read daily what the Holy Spirit has given to you in writing. This builds up your character and keeps you constantly strong and ready for the future. If one of the best predictors of future behavior is past behavior, saturate today with God, and be ready for tomorrow and eternity.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord," (1 Cor. 15:58).
[Warren Berkley]