

## THE JUDGMENT DAY

"God now commandeth all men everywhere to repent; 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." Acts 17:30-31

One event in the future that is absolutely certain is that there will be a judgment day for the world. Why do I say that it is absolutely certain that there is a Judgment Day for the world? Because Jesus Christ says so and I am ready to bank on anything and everything He says. The, ~~the~~ absolutely certain historical fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead points forward with unerring finger to the absolute certainty of a Judgment Day in the future. In His resurrection God has given us a special guarantee of the Judgment Day. Our text declares that "He hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world." Since there is to be a Judgment Day we may well ask:----

### I. Who Shall Be Judged?

Our text answers this question with unmistakable plainness. It says, "God hath appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness." The Greek work here translated "world" means "the whole inhabited earth" or all mankind. That judgment is to be a judgment of the whole inhabited earth. The judgment extends to all men. There will be no escaping that day. At that meeting every person will have to be present. All men are to be judged. There are Scriptures which suggest also that the evil angels are to be judged; whereas the good angels appear only as attendants of the Judge.

### II. Who Shall Be The Judge?

We come now to the very important question, Who is to sit as Judge in that great Judgment Day that is coming? Jesus Christ, the God-man, Himself, is to sit as Judge. Listen to our text again, "God hath appointed a day, in 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." God set the stamp of His endorsement on Christ's claim that He was to be the Judge by raising Him from the dead. Beyond a question Jesus Christ is to be the Judge. He, Himself, declares that fact. He says, "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father." John 5:22-23 Again, we know that God, in the person of Jesus Christ, is to be judge for Paul says in II Co. 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ."

That same Christ Whom some of you have rejected, denied, and are robbing of the honor, worship, and obedience that are His due, is to be the Judge. His office implies infinite knowledge, to comprehend at once the eternal counsels of God and the secrets of all hearts. It implies infinite authority to pronounce the final sentence, infinite wisdom to do it justly, and infinite power to execute it. The fitness of Christ to occupy this office grows out of His twofold relations: to God and to men. He reveals God to men and reconciles men to God. He bears our nature and thus possesses the knowledge and sympathy required for equitable and just decisions regarding men.

### III. What Shall Be The Standard Of Judgment?

1. The Law of God as revealed in the Scriptures

2. The Grace of Christ  
How they have dealt with Him and regulated their conduct towards Him
3. Righteousness  
Every verdict will accord with equity and truth  
There will be no trace of partiality and no shade of favoritism

#### IV. What Shall Be The Basis Of Judgment?

##### 1. The deeds done in the body

In II Cor. 5:10 Paul says, "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." Thus the issues of eternity are determined this side of the grave. The man who drinks, squanders his time, his money, and his manhood in a life of dissipation, will have to answer for it in that day. The woman who lives a life of frivolity, foolishness, and fashion instead of living for the God who made her and for the Christ who died for her will have to answer for it in that day. The one who professes to be a Christian but lives just like the world will have to answer for it in that day. The man who is a libertine, living in lust, like a beast, scattering ruin wherever he goes, will have to answer for it in that day. The deeds done in the body will all come up, even the things you have forgotten, in that day. The judgment will thus be determined by what people made of themselves when they were in the flesh, here on the earth.

##### 2. The Secret things

In Rom. 2:16 we read, "In that day God shall judge the secrets of men, according to my gospel, by Jesus Christ." The secrets of all hearts will be brought in as the subject matter of judgment, as well as the actions themselves. The secret things, the things done in the dark, the things done when nobody saw,--but God; all will be brought to light in that day. Yes, the secret things will come to light.

##### 3. The words spoken

The Lord tells us in Matt. 12:36, "But I say unto you that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." All your careless, unkind, harsh, gossiping, heedless, and thoughtless words you will have to give account for ~~it~~ in the day of judgment. You will have to give an account for every word you have said then.

##### 4. The way Jesus has been treated

There is nothing that reveals what is in the human heart so clearly as what one does with Jesus Christ. The rejection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Whom God hath appointed to be our Saviour, King, and Lord, is the most daring and damning of all sins. John 3:18 says, "He that believeth on Him is not condemned; but he that believeth not on him is condemned already, because ~~he~~ hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." The great question, therefore, of the Judgment Day will be, "What did you do with Jesus Christ?"

On the Judgment Day regard will be had to all the particulars of human action. Ecclesiastes 12:14 states "God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

That includes then, all thoughts--the work of the understanding, all feelings---the work of the heart\*, all choices--the work of the will, all words--the work of the tongue, and all deeds--the work of the hand.

## V. What Shall Be The Results Of Judgment?

### 1. Discrimination

In judgment He will discriminate between the righteous and the unrighteous. The great Judge of ~~heart~~ sees all the time the difference between those who love Him and those ~~who~~ do not; but in the judgment He will manifest this difference. The judgment is not for the ascertainment of character but for the manifestation of it.

### 2. Segregation

Christ will then separate the godly and the wicked as the fan separates the wheat from the chaff. In Matt. 25:31-46 Jesus predicts that He will come in His glory, and all the angels with Him; that He shall sit upon the throne of His glory; that all nations shall be gathered before Him; and that He shall separate them as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. But this separation of the righteous from the unrighteous is simply to make manifest what previously existed in fact. The two classes are separated because they have acquired distinct natures like the sheep and the goats.

The separation of the righteous and the wicked is:--

#### (1) Necessary separation

Necessary to:

- a. The vindication of God's justice
- b. The blessedness of the righteous
- c. The punishment of the wicked

#### (2) An accurate separation

The judge will not make any mistakes  
Nothing will prevent the assignment of each individual to the destiny to which each really belongs

#### (3) A separation leading to new companionships

The righteous with the Saviour and His angels  
He will extend to the righteous this gracious invitation,  
"Come ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you."

The wicked with the devil and his angels  
Then He shall say unto them, "Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."  
Thus the people of Christ will be called to an everlasting participation in the glories of His heavenly Kingdom, and His enemies will have the sentence of eternal condemnation pronounced on them.

#### (4) A separation without hope of reunion

That separation is final and eternal. There will be no possibility of an appeal to a higher court, or of a termination of the sentence. It will be for all eternity. The results will be either eternal joy, glory, communion with the Lord, and life, or eternal gloom, shame, despair, darkness, and death.

Can't you imagine or picture how it will be on the Judgment Day. There stands the Judgment Throne with its blazing glory, its dazzling magnificence, and its overwhelming splendor. There sits the Christ upon that throne. His facing is shining with a glory above the glory of the noonday sun. His eyes glow like flames of fire, piercing men through and through. And there you stand before that Judgment Bar, with the eyes of Christ upon you, piercing you through and through, your whole

(Over)