

25 December 2016

The nature of Christ Pt 5 Christ the Judge.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. Christ came not to judge but to save the world.

"And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world" (Jn.12: 47).

The verse that follows says "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." So on one hand when Christ was physically on earth, His purpose was not to judge (as we saw with the woman caught in adultery – Jn.8: 3 & 9) but to save the lost (Matt.18: 11), yet on the other hand He will judge those who reject His words "in the last day" including those words He gave to Paul.

2. God will judge all men by Jesus Christ according to the gospel revealed to Paul

"God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel" (Rom.2: 16).

See also – Jn.12: 48, Acts 10:42 & 2Tim 4:1.

Jesus Christ will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ in the last days, and although not specific it would be reasonable to suggest that this judgment is on those who believe **not** Christ's words, those who reject Him, including those who believe another gospel to that revealed to Paul.

3. Those who receive the Lord Jesus will stand at the judgment seat of Christ.

"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" (Rom.14: 10).

See also 2Cor.5: 10.

Christians do not escape judgment, as they will "stand 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" (2Cor.5: 10). And the previous verse says "Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him." Therefore as members of the body of Christ we labour to do that which God set for us to do (1Cor.12: 28), and we will be judged accordingly.

Additional comments on our three points.

Christians are judged by Christ for the things done in the body, whether they be good or bad. Where "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward" (1Cor.3: 14) for his work that God set him to do in the body of Christ (1Cor.12: 8), but if he has done "bad" and not fulfilled that which God set, his works will be burned up "he shall suffer loss" (1Cor.3: 15).

Applying the teaching to our life today.

At BCNZ there were graduates deciding what **they** were wanting to do, some showed discernment and others had wives that wanted them to be a pastor, minister or teacher and so went into the ministry.

Questions to think about.

What is the difference between a person in the body of Christ that does a runner from God like Jonah initially did, and not fulfil the task which God set for him, and the person who chooses to be a teacher when God has **not** set him that task?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

There is no difference. Believers who choose their own task or run from God when being given a task in the body will both suffer loss as **their** works will be burned up at the judgment seat of Christ. Let us remember that Christ is the judge, although He did not come to judge the world but to save the world, He **will** judge both believers and non-believers. Are you ready for Christ's judgment? And will you be found naked or clothed with rewards from the Judge?