

10 September 2017

God's judgment Pt 4 – The time and place of God's judgment.

This is our fourth study on the judgment of God. In our previous teaching we established that when God executes His judgments He is exalted, He is sanctified, and His judgments are without respect of persons. In this study we establish that there is an appointed time and place for man's judgment and that is after death, for the non-believer it is at the great white throne judgment and for believers it is at the judgment seat of Christ.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. After death comes judgment.

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb.9: 27).

God judges and chastises those whom He loves during their life-time, such that a person reaps what they sow (Gal.6: 7 & 8). But God "hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained" (Acts 17:31). And "the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son" (Jn.5: 22).

2. Non-believers will be judged at the great white throne judgment.

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20: 11,12 & 15).

Those judged at the great white throne judgment are those whose names are **not** written in the book of life, and those in the body of Christ their "names are in the book of life" (Php.4: 3), and therefore not cast in the lake of fire.

3. Believers will stand before the 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" (2Cor.5: 10). See also Rom.14: 10.

There is judgment for those in the body of Christ (1Pet.4: 17) – where "every one may receive the things done in his body...whether it be good or bad" (2Cor.5: 10). Therefore "why dost thou judge thy brother?...for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ (Rom. 14: 10). Where we will all be required to "give account of himself to God" (Rom.14: 12).

Additional comments on our three points.

When we judge the lost or our brother a common response is often received – both seek to justify their actions. But when God judges both the lost man and the saved He will not give either an opportunity to justify their actions, but rather He will require them to give an account to Him, the righteous judge of what they have done "whether it be good or bad" (2Cor.5: 10).

Applying the teaching to our life today.

Those in the body of Christ that walk in the flesh whilst being convicted by the Spirit of God within them (the backslider and those that have fallen away) will have to explain to God why they did so.

Two questions to think about.

- i) One for personal reflection – what will I have to give an account of to Christ that is good or bad?
- ii) What can we learn from God's approach to judgment that we can apply to our lives today?

My answer from the scriptures to our second question.

What can we learn and apply today? – "cast out the beam out of thine own eye" (Matt.7: 5), and "Let us not therefore judge one another any more" (Rom.14: 13). Because we will all be judged!