

## Doctrine of the Church – The Judgment Seat of Christ II Cor. 5:9-11

*Thesis: To help us be better prepared for the judgment.*

### Introduction:

- A. There will come a time when we will all appear before God.
- B. The great thing is that we can know what that judgment will be based on and the reward or punishment that we will be given.

### I. We know that one day we will be judged (5:9-10).

#### A. This time of judgment is an appointment that God has made for us.

- 1. As people on this earth, we have the opportunity to break certain appointments when they do not fit into our schedule.
  - a. Doctors, haircuts, dentists, meetings, etc.
  - b. On this earth, we have the ability to choose which appointments we will keep.
- 2. However, this appointment with God cannot be broken.
  - a. **Heb. 9:27** - And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,
  - b. **Js. 4:13-14** - Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; {14} whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.
  - c. This is not intended to be a scare tactic; it is just a fact of life.
- 3. We will stand before God and give an account to Him.
  - a. **Rom. 14:12** - So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.
  - b. **II Cor. 5:10a** - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

#### B. Because we must appear before Him, "we make it our aim...to be well pleasing to Him" (5:9).

- 1. No one standing before an earthly judge waiting to be sentenced to prison would insult the judge.
  - a. We would be on our best behavior.
  - b. We would not want to make the judge angry before he passed sentence on us.
- 2. The same is true with God; we should live our life pleasing to Him.
- 3. We please God by being obedient to Him.
  - a. **Jn. 14:15** - If you love Me, keep My commandments.
  - b. **Jn. 15:14** - You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

## II. We know that it is Christ who is the Judge.

### A. It is Christ who came to this earth, and it is Christ who will judge the earth.

1. There are several things that Jesus knows about us.
  - a. He knows these things because He left the home of the Father and came to the earth.
    - 1) **Jn. 1:14** - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
    - 2) **Phil. 2:7** - Jesus came "in the likeness of men."
  - b. He knows what it is like to be tempted.
    - 1) **Mt. 4:1-11** - Jesus is tempted for forty days by the devil.
    - 2) **Heb. 4:15** - For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.
    - 3) He knows what we struggle with.
  - c. He knows our thoughts.
    - 1) **Heb. 4:13** - And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.
    - 2) There is nothing hidden from Him.
  - d. He knows the sins that we have committed, and He knows the good that we have done.
2. It is Jesus who will judge the world.
  - a. **Mt. 25:31-32** - When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. {32} All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.
  - b. **Acts 10:42** - And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.
  - c. **II Tim. 4:1** - I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

### B. The assurance of the judgment is the resurrection from the dead.

1. **Acts 17:30-31** - Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, {31} because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.
2. **I Cor. 15:12-19** - Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? {13} But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. {14} And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. {15} Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He

raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up-- if in fact the dead do not rise. {16} For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. {17} And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! {18} Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. {19} If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

3. **II Cor. 5:1** - For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

### III. We know the basis for the judgment of Christ.

#### A. We are going to be judged based upon "the things done in the body."

1. There are no excuses on the day of judgment.
  - a. We know that we will be judged according to the things that we do.
  - b. **Jn. 12:48** (Jesus tells us what standard to use for our actions) - **He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him-- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.**
2. Those that say our works do not matter have never considered the judgment scene.
  - a. **Mt. 25:33-45** - "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. {34} Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: {35} for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; {36} I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' {37} Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? {38} When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? {39} Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' {40} And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' {41} Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: {42} for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; {43} I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' {44} Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' {45} Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you,

inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.”

b. The simple fact of the matter is that our actions do matter.

B. On this great day of judgment, we will receive either eternal life or eternal punishment.

1. These are the only two choices; there is no middle ground.
2. Rom. 2:5-10 - But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, {6} who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: {7} eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; {8} but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness-- indignation and wrath, {9} tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; {10} but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

#### Conclusion:

- A. Because we know what will happen on the day of judgment, we can be prepared for it.
  1. There will be no surprises.
  2. We will receive either an eternal home in heaven or an eternal home in hell.
- B. Are you prepared for that great day?