



Judgments

Key Doctrines for Starting and Finishing Strong

LESSON 10 | Part 1



"Nothing has contributed more powerfully to wean me from all that held me down to earth than the thought, constantly dwelt upon, of death and of the last judgment."

AUGUSTINE

In this lesson, we will study these essential subjects:

- **Basic Questions and Answers About God's Judgment**
- **The Different Types of Judgment**
- **How will our bodies be in the resurrection?**
- **When will the resurrections take place and what hope does the resurrection give us?**

Are the following statements true or false? (circle one)



- God doesn't judge us but people do. T F
- On Judgment Day, the standard of judgment will be our individual situations. T F

Be on the lookout for the answers to these questions as we study the Word of God.

The Doctrine of Judgment

The doctrine of judgment is a Bible doctrine that is taught from the beginning of the Word of God (*Gen. 3*), through to the very last page of the New Testament (*Rev.22*). It is the first doctrine that Satan denied when he suggested to Eve that it is possible to sin without consequences (*Gen.2:17, 3:1-5*). In seeking to call into question God's perfections, Satan actually highlighted one of God's greatest attributes: the veracity of His Word when it comes to judgment. The doctrine of judgments is rooted in three branches of theology:

- A. Theology proper—the study of God's nature and attributes
- B. Hamartiology—the study of sin
- C. Eschatology—the study of the last things

Theologically speaking, *judgment reveals the sovereign rights of a holy God to punish all disobedience and sin*. Yet, in history, *death and its consequences* are a part of *God's past judgment on sin*. However, when most people think of judgment, they have in mind *the final, future judgment of God in the last day* (*Acts 17:30-31; Rev.20:11-15*).

Basic Questions and Answers About Judgement

- A. According to the following verses, what will be judged? _____
 - Ecclesiastes 12:14—*"For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil."*
 - Romans 2:16—*"On the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus."*
- B. According to the following verses, who will be judged? _____
 - Matthew 16:27—*"For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS."*
 - Acts 17:31—*"...He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."*

- Hebrews 9:27—“...inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.”

C. According to the following verses, Who will judge? _____

- John 5:22, 27—“For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son...and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:10—“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”
- 2 Timothy 4:1—“I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead...”

D. What will be the standard of judgment? _____

- John 12:48—“He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day...”

The Types of Judgments

When we speak of the doctrine of judgments, we must distinguish between *temporary, present, or past* judgments, and *future, eternal* judgments.

A. The past judgment

1. How did God judge the sin of believers in eternity past? (*Is.53:4-6*)

2. When we say past judgments, it must be remembered that God has already judged the sin of believers in His Son on the cross once and for all (*Is.53:4-6; John 5:24; 2 Cor.5:21; Gal.3:13; 1 Pet.2:24; 1 John 2:2*).

B. The temporary, present judgment

1. What does God presently use to judge sin in the believer's life? (*Matt.18:15-17*)

2. It must be remembered that there is a *present judgment of believers*. It is the *private judgment* of sin in our lives that we are to deal with in order that we may not be condemned along with the world (*1 Cor.5:5, 11:32; Heb.12:5-13*). There is also *the temporary present judgment of church discipline* (*Matt.18:15ff*). These are separate from what the Bible reveals as *future, eternal judgments*. We must also distinguish between *manifested cataclysmic judgments* in history, like that of the global flood (*Gen.6-8*) and Sodom and Gomorrah (*Gen.19*), and *declared judgment of sinners* in history who await a future revelation and final execution of judgment (*Rev.20:12-15*).

C. The future, eternal judgment

1. When does the individual judgment occur? (*Heb.9:27*) _____
2. The doctrine of judgments calls for another distinction between *individual eschatology* and *cosmic eschatology*. In other words, we must separate those experiences that lie *in the future of the individual* from those that are *in the future of the entire human race and creation*. In these two categories, we discover that an individual judgment occurs the moment each individual dies. However, a cosmic judgment will take place in connection with the Second Coming of Christ (*Rev.12-17*).

Preliminary Truths About Final Judgment

One of the first truths that the doctrine of judgment reveals is that this present world is a *place of probation*, meaning that here all men are on trial, as it were. What we do here will really make a difference in eternity. It is not that our works determine our salvation, but they reflect whether we have any life toward God.

Discussion:

- Read Matthew 7:21-23. In this present world, can you know that you are saved from the wrath of God?

There are two important truths that we need to store for us in our minds.

The first truth is this: In the Bible, our works and our life toward God are combined to present a true picture of our status. A man may have a name that he lives, and yet be dead (*Rev.3:1*). On the other hand, a man may be known by his many activities and works, yet be unknown to Christ (*Matt.7:22-23*). Nothing but a sincere doing of the Father's will can prove us to be true Christians. There must be practical godliness, or nothing is right within us (*Heb.12:14*).

The second truth that must be kept in mind is that final judgment is not intended to *ascertain* our spiritual condition or status, for that is already known to God. Rather, *final judgment will manifest or make our status public* (*Rev.20:12*). The final judgment *manifests* our status. It is not something that will *determine* our fate. It is not the occasion on which our fate is announced. There will be no *discussion, argument, deliberation, or compromise* in connection with this final judgment. *Our fate was actually determined before we were born* (*Eph.1:4-5*); but at the final judgment, it will simply be publicly declared by God Himself (*Eccl.12:14*).

Closing:

Application questions: Being a Doer of the Word

- **2 Timothy 3:16**—*“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching [what is right], for reproof [what is not right], for correction [how to get right], for training in righteousness [how to stay right]; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”*
1. What did I learn (“teaching”)?
 2. Where do I fall short (“reproof”)?
 3. What do I need to do about it (“correction”)?
 4. How can I make this a consistent part of my life (“training”)?

Answer Key:

Are the following statements true or false?

- F
- F

Basic Questions and Answers About Judgment

- A. every act
- B. every man
- C. Christ Himself
- D. the Word

Types of Judgment

- A.
 1. at the cross
- B.
 1. church discipline
- C.
 1. at death

Holy Habits Weekly Devotion



This week's memory verse: **Ecclesiastes 12:14**—"For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil."

This week's holy habit: **Journaling**

Awesome examples of the value of journaling can be found throughout the pages of scripture. In the Bible, we find the Father communicating to His children about His nature and will. We have a record of His responses and fulfilled promises—reminders of how precious we are to Him. Also, we see man examining his thoughts, making petitions and prayer requests, meditating, and worshipping a Holy God. The wonderful thing about keeping our own spiritual journal is that it is ours and we are free to pour into it however the Lord leads us to do it.

DAY 1 Read Habakkuk 2:2.

- Start by writing about how the Lord spoke to your heart during a sermon.

DAY 2 Read Jeremiah 30:2.

- Think of several prayer requests. Write them down. Keep track of which ones are answered and how.

DAY 3 Read Psalm 119:18.

- Write down questions you have about a doctrine or passage. As your understanding grows and you find your answers, go back and answer the questions you wrote.

DAY 4 Read Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

- Journal about what you learned from your time with the Lord today.

DAY 5 Read Psalm 119:15.

- Write down one or two areas of struggle for you. Find and copy a scripture that speaks to those struggles.

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