



Judgement Day!!

Scripture is very clear that God is in control of human history. He is the one who made the universe and man and He is the one who will decisively bring human history to an end.

On this final day of human history we are told that all of us will be raised from the dead, will stand before the throne of the lamb and be judged. This judgement will set for us where we will spend eternity. Once this judgement has been made it will not be changed, there is no reprieve from it. Human history is moving quickly towards this day of Divine Judgement.

Discuss - (In group / or small groups)

Q1) How does it make you feel to think that God will judge humanity, sending some to glory and others to hell?

Q2) What criteria do you think this judgement will be done by?

Q3) How do you think you should live in light of the fact that we will all be judged by Almighty God?

Point 1 – The judgement of the lost

For many people today the idea that God would judge people for not believing and living for Him seems harsh. Yet we forgot that God Himself made us as a species and created us specifically to have a relationship with Him. In every sense we belong to God and have a purpose to fulfil. This is why Jesus came, to give all of humanity the opportunity to come back to God. As a result of the high price that Jesus endured through His death upon the cross, there is no leeway in the judgement of God levelled at those who do not come into a living knowledge of His Son. The judgement that is levelled at people is whether they have come into a LIVING knowledge of Jesus or not. Knowledge itself is not enough to secure salvation. Going through religious practices and belief in the doctrines of the church is not enough to secure salvation. Scripture declares two aspects of the judgement on whether you are saved or not. At first appearances it looks like it contradicts itself, but when you look deeper, you see it is talking about a acknowledge of Jesus that changes your attitudes and lifestyle. Scripture on one hand declares that it is by faith alone that you are saved and on the other, declares that without Godly deeds you will not be saved. There is no doubt that even the demons knowledge who Jesus is and shudder ,(for in the Gospels they cried out a public declaration of who He is.) What is being said in Scripture is that if you profess with your lips that Jesus is the Son of God and has risen from the dead. And if you have truly surrendered your heart to that knowledge and make Him Lord of your life, then it WILL produce both Godly Change and Godly actions in your life. A saved by the blood of the lamb Christian who is born again, will produce Godly actions and good deeds in their lives. That is why the test of a saving faith on judgement day is both a test of what someone has believed and what someone has done. belief without deeds results in damnation, good deeds without faith results in damnation. The lost WILL be condemned for their sins, they will pay the cost for their rebellion themselves and will be condemned to the unchanging eternal reality of Hell on that final day of judgement. We are saved by faith alone, but a SAVING FAITH is a faith that results in Godly change and the manifestation of good deeds and good fruit. Matthew 7 v 21 – 23, John 3 v 16 – 18, Matthew 25 v 31– 46, Romans 5 v 1 – 11, Revelation 20 v 11– 15, James 2 v 14 – 26, Ephesians 2 v 8 – 10, Romans 10 v 9 – 13, 2 Thessalonians 1 v 6 – 9

Point 2 - The judgement of Christians.

A second judgement that is talked about in Scripture is a judgement that is levelled at believers. It is important to say that this judgement is not about whether we are saved or not , but rather it is about the level of reward we will receive when we get to heaven. Simply put for a Christian there is no condemnation for by faith in Jesus we have crossed over from death to life. However Scripture declares that our good deeds and works of service will be tested to see whether they were genuinely for Jesus or not. If our good deeds endure the testing process we will be rewarded for them, if not those good deeds will perish and there will be no reward in eternity. We should not do good deeds because we want a reward or recognition, rather we should do good deeds to please and honour Jesus in our daily lives. The motives behind why we do what we do are fundamentally important in how God judges the works of our hands. 1 Corinthians 3 v 10 – 15, Matthew 6 v 1 –6, v 19– 21, Ephesians 6 v 7 – 8, Colossians 3 v 23 – 25, Revelation 22 v 12 –13

Point 3 – The judgement of angels.

Just as Scripture declares that there is a judgement on humanity because of sin, so it also declares that there will be a judgement on those angels who fell and sinned by following the rebellion that Lucifer instigated because of His pride. For these fallen angels there is no possibility for forgiveness or restoration, only the fearful reality of hell and damnation. Lucifer Himself will be cast into the burning lake of sulphur and be tormented there day and night for the evil he has perpetuated on this earth. It should be a great encouragement to a Christian to know that the forces of evil in this world live in the shadow of judgement and will receive everlasting punishment for the evil that they have inspired amongst men. Christ has won the victory, Satan stands condemned and will receive his eternal punishment for sin. As someone once said. “ When Satan tries to remind you of your past sin – to undermine your forgiveness and confidence in Christ - you remind him of his future and the fact he WILL be judged and cast into the burning lake of sulphur. 2 Peter 2 v 4, Jude 6, Revelation 20 v 7-10

