

THE JUDGMENT

Int.

1. Aim: To study the events connected with the Day of Judgement which will be an exhortation to be prepared.
2. Acts 17:30-31 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."
 - a. Paul was speaking to an audience of leading philosophers of that day.
 - b. He spoke on the judgement
3. A study of the judgment is healthy for our soul. It is sobering and thought provoking. Many have obeyed or been restored after considering the truths of the Judgement.
4. We will discuss these things about the judgment
 - (1) Certainty
 - (2) Persons to be judged
 - (3) Basis of the judgment
 - (4) Who will be the Judge
 - (5) The decisions are final
 - (6) Events of that day

Discussion

I. CERTAINTY OF THE JUDGMENT

- A. Acts 17:31 - he has appointed a day
- B. Heb. 9:27 - judgment will come just as sure as death
- C. Many writers affirm this truth:
 1. Ecl. 12:13-14. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."
 2. Mt. 25:31-33 - "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32. And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth [his] sheep from the goats: 33. And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left."
 3. 1 Jn. 4:17 - "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world."
- D. Judgment is a day that is set aside
 1. We can't put it off or decide not to attend
 2. We can't miss it or avoid it.
 3. It is for all; --- young or old, rich or poor, good or bad, black or white, Male & female, educated and uneducated
- E. Even though the judgment day is certain the exact day is uncertain - no man can know when it is going to be!! MATT 24:36. "But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."
- F. There will be a day of judgment just as surely as we have had a day of birth and will have a day of death.

II. PERSONS TO BE JUDGED

- A. Acts 17:31 --- "the world"
- B. Greatest crowd ever assembled - every individual from Adam until the end of the world will be there. The Atheists, criminals, false teachers and all Godly people will be in that number.
- C. Each individual in that crowd will be judged
 - 1. Don't think of it as "we", "They", or "us" -- but think of it as "I", or "Me".
 - 2. Rom. 14:12 - "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."
 - 3. We will not be judged by congregations, nor families, nor counties, nor states, nor nations.
 - 4. He will judge each one individually
 - 5. Song - "When the Roll is called up yonder, I'll be there."

III. BASIS OF THE JUDGEMENT

- A. We will be judged according to our lives - 2 Cor. 5:10 - "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."
 - 1. Deeds - Romans 2:6 - "Who will render to every man according to his deeds:"
 - 2. Words - Mt. 12:36-37 - "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."
 - 3. Secrets
 - a. Rom. 2:16. "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel." Secrets = concealed, private

b. ECCL. 12:13. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

(1) Secrete thing = hidden in ASV

(2) It is hidden from others but not from God !

c. Acts 22:16 - "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

B. When we obey the gospel we are forgiven of all past sins

1. Repentance requires that we turn away from these sins.
2. Our sins are washed away - remitted
3. As we continue to walk in the light the blood of Jesus keeps us cleansed - 1 Jn. 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."
4. Then we are living a righteous life and we have the blood of Christ that will make an atonement for our sins.

C. It will not be like a trial but a sentencing

1. There is nothing in the Bible to suggest that God will hear evidence for and against a person and then reach a decision. No jury, no judge, no defenders.
2. Jesus pictured it as all nations being gathered before him and then they were separated - the righteous on the right hand and the wicked on the left hand.
3. The purpose of the judgment is to pass sentence upon those on the left hand and announce the reward for those on the right hand.
4. Depart from me, ye cursed-Mt. 25:41 - Come ye blessed of my Father-Mt.25:34

IV. WHO WILL BE THE JUDGE

- A. God will judge - Acts 17:31 - "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."
- B. He will judge through Christ -
1. 2 Cor. 5:10 - "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."
 2. 2 Tim. 4:1 - "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;"
 3. Rom. 2:16 - "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."
- C. Jesus will be a righteous judge
1. II Tim. 4:8 - righteous judge
 2. There will be no mistakes
 3. Money or position in life will not change him - no bribes
 4. We will stand or fall on our own record
 5. Justice will be given on that day.

V. ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL

- A. Jn. 12:48 - "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."
- B. The decisions are final
1. They can't be changed or set aside
 2. There is no higher court to which we can appeal
 3. The judge makes no mistakes
 4. All decisions are final!!
 5. Rev. 20:12- "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."

VI. EVENTS OF THAT DAY

A. # 1 Jesus will return

1. Acts 1:11 - "Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."
2. Rev. 1:7 - "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."

B. # 2 Those still alive will be changed

1. 1 Cor. 15:51-52 - "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."
2. This will be in an instant
3. 1 Thes. 4:15-17 - "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

C. # 3 The dead will arise

1. Jn. 5:28-29 - "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29. And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."
2. Every person who has died will be resurrected
3. There will be two groups of people
 - a. The sad
 - b. The glad

D. # 4 The sad will be Weeping

1. Lk. 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you [yourselves] thrust out.
2. Mt. 13:42 - "And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."
3. Those unprepared will be afraid -

E. # 5 The glad will Love his appearing

1. II Tim. 4:8 - "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."
2. Those prepared will welcome this judgement day.

F. # 6 The Great separation - Mt. 25:31-33 - "When the Son of man shall come in his

glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32. And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one

from another, as a shepherd divideth [his] sheep from the goats: 33. And he shall

set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left."

1. Husbands and wives = Parents and children
2. Friends and neighbors = Fellow Christians
3. It will be a sad day for those who are separated from their families and loved ones.

Conclusion

1. What is your attitude about the day of judgment?
 - a. If you fear meeting God and standing before him then it could mean that you are not living right
 - b. Christians who are faithful should look forward to the coming of Christ and the day of judgment
 - c. 2 Tim. 4:6-8 - "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."
2. Do you need to obey the gospel or be restored? This could be the last opportunity you have before the judgement because we do not know when it is going to be. Are you ready? Can't prepare after death - must do it now !!

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Morning Dec. 27, 2009
 Evans Church of Christ
 515 Gibbs Road
 Evans, Ga. 30809
 706-855-1249
 evanscoc@bellsouth.net
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org