

Judgment Must Begin At the House of God

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[1 Peter 4:17](#) For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

- I. We must first understand what judgment is in order to really understand what is being said here.
 - A. Judgment means to discern or distinguish – a decision that is made for or against.
 - B. God is separating from the human race those who are his.
 - C. He is preparing for the harvest of the earth.
 - D. This has been the ultimate goal of God's working through all of human history.
 - E. God only recognizes two categories – the righteous and the wicked.
 - F. There is good and evil – that is all there is.
 - G. The judgment of God is always about the distinguishing between good and evil.
 - H. More precisely, it is about distinguishing between who is identified with evil and who is identified with good.
 1. Not as men see it, but as God sees it.
 2. Men call evil good, and good evil, so the judgment of God is to straighten out what man has blurred and confused.
 - I. God intervenes in judgment when man will not do so himself.
 1. When men, or an assembly of men, such as a family, a church, or a country, will not judge between good and evil according to the moral law of God, there is a point of depravity where God will intervene and make clear to everyone what is good and what is evil.
- II. Judgment must begin at the house of God.
 - A. The context of this whole passage of Scripture is about the suffering of those who are identified with Christ.
 - B. The suffering we do as Christians is the price we pay when the church stops standing for righteousness.
 - C. A life lived for God in true holiness is a life that judges those who live in wickedness.
 1. Not a word of condemnation has to be said to them for them to feel judged – their own conscience condemns them when there is a light shining.
 2. When there is no light there is no condemnation for them.
 - D. Therefore, judgment must begin at the house of God.
 1. Our light must shine in order for the difference between good and evil to be recognized by the wicked.
 - E. The discerning and the distinguishing between good and evil must begin at the house of God, also.
 - F. The people of God must be the ones who begin to recognize, acknowledge, and declare what is right and what is wrong in the sight of God, and according to his Word.
 - G. No revival or move of God will ever happen without the people of God first realizing their sins and returning to righteousness.

- H. They MUST realize and acknowledge that they have been deceived and have embraced things that are evil and displeasing to God.
 - 1. They must understand and face the fact that they are calling good what God calls evil, and they are calling evil what God calls good.
 - 2. They must acknowledge that they have been justifying themselves in doing evil.
 - 3. They must pass judgment upon themselves, and that judgment has to be what God can agree to.
 - 4. They must deal with their confusion about good and evil, whether it was caused by ignorance, false teaching, or their own deceitful lusts.
- I. They must make the decision to cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. (Romans 13:12)
- J. They must hate the evil and love the good.

Psalms 119:53 Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law.

Psalms 119:136 Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.

Psalms 119:158 I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word.

- K. With this comes the promise of God that He will forgive and cleanse and restore.

Matthew 5:4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

III. When God has to intervene in judgment He must begin at the house of God.

Ezekiel 9:4-10 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. ¶ And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house. And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city. And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem? Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not. And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head.

- A. This is where the cancer starts, so this is where the cure begins.
- B. Before God judges the world He will separate his people.
- C. First, He will separate his people from those who are identified as his people but who really aren't.
- D. I believe we can see this happening right now in our society and our world.
- E. All the people who are in the churches who are siding with the evil going on in our world are being set apart and distinguished from those who stand for what is right.
- F. All those who sigh and cry for the abominations done in this land are also being marked by God.
- G. It has been obvious for a few years now that those who love righteousness are finding themselves ostracized from the churches.
- H. They are being cut from the herd and set apart by God.

- I. Although they are scattered from one end of the earth to another, they are being united by a kindred spirit that is not found in the apostate churches where the truth is evil spoken of. (2 Peter 2:2)
- J. Are you part of the herd of the wicked, or has God set you apart?
- K. Judgment has already begun at the house of God – what will be your judgment?
 - 1. Where would you stand tonight if God called you up and declared what you really are and passed judgment on you?
- L. Judgment begins at the house of God – the beginning of a cleansing of the human race, and the start of a new beginning both begin at the house of God.

2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.