

JUDGMENTS OF THE BELIEVER

1 PETER 4:1-6

Introduction

SCRIPTURE declares that JESUS CHRIST is the ONE ordained of GOD to be the JUDGE of all mankind—both the saved and lost.

JESUS said these words to the JEWS that sought to kill him:

John 5:22—“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:”

John 5:27—“And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.”

JESUS said these words to HIS DISCIPLES as HE commissioned them:

Matthew 28:18—“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”

The Apostle Peter in his defense of his preaching to the Gentiles said:

Acts 10:42—“And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.”

The Apostle Paul in his message to the philosophers on Mars’ Hill said:

Acts 17:31—“Because he [GOD] 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.”

So, it is a fact that each one of us—both those of us who are **SAVED** and those who are **LOST**—will stand before **JESUS** and be **JUDGED** by **HIM!** Understand though that the **SAVED** and the **LOST WILL** be **JUDGED** separately, not together! There is no **GENERAL JUDGMENT!**

The **UNBELIEVER** will have only one **JUDGMENT** to face—known as **THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT!** That is a message for another day, **LORD WILLING!**

But today I want us to see there are **THREE JUDGMENTS** for the **BELIEVER**—One **JUDGMENT IS PAST**, One **IS PRESENT**, AND One **IS FUTURE!:**

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I. **THE BELIEVER’S PAST JUDGMENT AS A SINNER!**

A. **Understand That GOD Said That HE Would JUDGE SIN!**
Genesis 2:17—“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

B. **Understand That GOD Has Never Changed HIS Mind About The JUDGMENT For SIN!**
Ezekiel 18:4—“The soul that sinneth, it shall die.”

Romans 6:23—“The wages of sin is death.”

C. **But Understand That The BELIEVERS JUDGMENT For SIN Is Past!**
Isaiah 53:6—“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

1 Peter 3:18—“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

1. **It Was Done By SUBSTITUTION!**
“...the just for the unjust...” (1 Peter 3:18)

“...that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Christ Jesus” (Romans 3:26)

2. **HE Died For Every SIN—Past, Present, Future.**

D. **Sometimes The BELIEVER Has A Difficult Time Understanding How JESUS Died For Future SIN!**

1. **Understand That When JESUS Died All Our SINS Were Future!**
Romans 5:8—“But God commendeth his love for us, in that, while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.”

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2. **When GOD Looks Down On The Pathway Of Time, He Sees All The SINS That Would Ever Be Committed!**
 3. **GOD has taken all these SINS and laid them on JESUS and punished them in HIM! (Imputation!) 2 Corinthians 5:21– “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”**
 - a. Our SIN Was Imputed To JESUS!
 - b. JESUS Righteousness Was Imputed To Us!
- E. **JESUS Suffered Everything We Would Have Suffered, If We Had To Pay For Our SINS!**
1. **If He Didn’t, The Full Debt Was Not Paid.**
 2. **However, Jesus Did Pay It All. (“It is finished”)**
 3. **Jesus Satisfied The Just Demands Of A Holy God. (He paid in full what we owed!) - Hebrews 9:22-28**
- F. **As Believers We Will Never Face God In Judgment For Our Sins.**
Romans 8:1–“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus...”
1. **GOD will never again deal with us as SINNERS, but as SONS!**
 2. **When we TRUST in the finished work of JESUS to save us, the sin question is forever settled.**
Hebrews 10:14–“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”

THE BELIEVER’S PAST JUDGMENT AS A SINNER...

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- II. **THE BELIEVER’S PRESENT JUDGMENT AS A SON!**
- A. **Since We Do Not Have To Worry About The JUDGMENT For SIN, Does That Mean We Can Live As We Please? Romans 6:1-2–“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”**
- B. **GOD’S Desire For BELIEVERS Is That They Practice SELF-JUDGMENT!**
1 Corinthians 11:31-32–“For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. 32But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.”
1. **We are to EXAMINE our lives, see what is wrong and then CONFESS it and FORSAKE it!**
 2. **If we fail to JUDGE ourselves, GOD will JUDGE us - “chastened of the Lord”**
- C. **Honestly Facing One’s Own SINS May Be One Of The Hardest Things A BELIEVER Must Do.**
1. Adam blamed someone else (both the woman and God)
Genesis 3:12-13– “12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. 13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.”
 2. King Saul made excuses! (*1 Samuel 15:13-15*)
(*Re: Amalekites*)
 3. Others try to hid their sins!
Proverbs 28:13– “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: But whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”

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4. The right thing to do is to **CONFESS** and **FORSAKE SIN!** (*Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:9*)

D. When We Fail To **JUDGE OURSELVES** And **CONFESS SIN**, **GOD** Will **CHASTEN** Us! (*Hebrews 12:5-11*)

1. What is **CHASTENING**?

- a. Child training, to educate by punishment.
- b. **CHASTISEMENT** is not a payment.
(*e.g. Boy breaks window, gets a spanking, dad pays for the window*)

2. Who is **CHASTENED**?

"Whom the Lord loveth" and "every son." (Vs 6)

3. Why do the wicked prosper?

(**GOD** does not whip the devil's children—**HE** will **JUDGE** them!)

4. How is a **BELIEVER** **CHASTENED**?

- a. Sometimes **GOD** uses the rod of bad health or even premature death!
1 Corinthians 11:30—“For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.”
- b. Sometimes **GOD** uses the rod of lost joy!
(*Psalms 51:2-3, 8, 12*)
- c. Sometimes **GOD** uses the rod of lost property! (*Amos 4:6-9*)
- d. Sometimes **GOD** uses the rod of death to loved ones. (*Amos 4:10*)
*e.g. Listen to the **PROPHET NATHAN** after **DAVID** sinned with **BATHSHEBA**...*

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e.g. 2 Samuel 12:14—“Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.”

5. What are the results of **CHASTENING**?

- a. **GOD** never does anything without a purpose!
- b. **GOD**'s ultimate aim is for every **BELIEVER** to be **CHRIST-LIKE!** (*Hebrews 12:10-11*)
Romans 8:28-29— “28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

6. How then should the **BELIEVER** respond to **CHASTISEMENT**?

- a. **GOD** does not expect us to enjoy it!
(*Hebrews 12:11*)
- b. *"...despise not..." (Hebrews 12:5)*
(*i.e. Don't allow your heart to grow bitter and hardened against **GOD**!*)
- c. *"...nor faint..." (Hebrews 12:5)*
(*i.e. Don't lose courage or give up!*)
- d. God wants us to learn from it and return to righteous living!
"...exercised thereby." (Hebrews 12:11)

*THE BELIEVER'S PAST JUDGMENT AS A SINNER...
THE BELIEVER'S PRESENT JUDGMENT AS A SON!*

III. THE BELIEVER'S FUTURE JUDGMENT AS A SERVANT!

(1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

- A. This passage has nothing to do with our SIN, only our WORKS!
- B. GOD expects every BELIEVER to WORK!
(i.e. To do something for HIM because of what HE has done for us! That was the basis for Paul beseeching the saints at Rome to present their bodies to the Lord *in Romans 12:1-2*)
- C. Some WORKS will be burned! *(Vs. 12, 15)*
- D. This JUDGMENT is a JUDGMENT by FIRE! *(Vs. 13)*
 - 1. Fire does not measure size, it tests QUALITY!
"...what sort it is."
 - 2. QUALITY is the important thing!
 - 3. The MOTIVE behind the service is important!
 - 4. GOD is not only interested in WHAT we do, but WHY we do it!
- E. This JUDGMENT will determine the BELIEVER'S REWARD! *(Vs 14-15)*
 - 1. Neither man goes to hell from this judgment (both are saved!)
 - 2. One is rewarded and the other suffers loss!
- F. "REWARD" is a payment for SERVICE rendered!
 - 1. HEAVEN is not a REWARD, it is a GIFT!
 - 2. SALVATION is also a GIFT!

G. Every BELIEVER will experience this JUDGMENT!

(Vs 13) "...every man's works..."

H. The time GOD gives us should be spent wisely in SERVICE to CHRIST!

1 John 2:28—"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."

Conclusion

JESUS is coming, are you ready to meet HIM? Are you SAVED?

If not, you have a much worse JUDGMENT awaiting!

In fact the WRATH OF GOD is abiding on you right now!

John 3:36—"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

You are CONDEMNED already!

John 3:18—"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

REPENT TODAY! Turn from your SIN of UNBELIEF and TRUST JESUS ALONE FOR SALVATION!

If you are SAVED, what are you doing for CHRIST? What do you have to look forward to at the JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?

Will you have any REWARDS in HEAVEN or will you suffer loss?