

"After This, The Judgment"

by Wayne Goff

"Judgment" appears 69 times in the New Testament and most often refers to that period of time when the entire population that has ever lived on the earth stands before God to give an account of themselves. It's a frightening, sobering thought which most people choose to ignore. But it is wiser to learn about it and prepare.

Jesus explained while He was on earth: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" John 5:24. So we must listen to the message of Jesus, and believe it is from God in order to have eternal life. The simple message is that man has violated God's eternal law and therefore sinned. Sin is law-breaking God's law. God must punish us for our sins because He is a righteous God. But He also loves mankind and wants Him to be saved. Therefore, to avert the deserved punishment for our sins, He sent Jesus to die as a substitution for us!

Upon the conditions of faith in Jesus as God's Son, turning away from further sin by repentance, confessing that Jesus is God's Son, and being baptized for the remission of sins, we can be saved.

Furthermore, in the book of Acts, the apostle Paul warned a man named Felix about these things: "Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, 'Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you' " Acts 24:25. We see Felix delaying a decision about his future, eternal destiny because it was not "convenient" for him. Procrastination is man's enemy. We may not want to face up to our lives, but we must do so now rather than later!

Romans 1 names many "sins" which are violations of God's law. "Unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; ... envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness" (v. 29) are just some of the named wrongs. But in addition to these known crimes are such things as "haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents" (v. 30)! Of these sins and more, the apostle Paul said, "Who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death" (v. 32)! Yes, God will judge men for these things.

Romans 2:2-3 goes on to say "But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?" God is not a respecter of persons, and so He judges everyone, great and small, by the same standard, Romans 2:11.

Romans 14:10 says simply "...For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." Are you ready? There is much more said about the eternal judgment day in the New Testament. And while the whole idea seems foreign to modern-day thinkers, you and I must study and learn the many things said about it in the New Testament so that we will be ready when we die and face God.

For those who would like to read further, consider these verses: 2 Corinthians 5:10, 2 Thessalonians 1:5, 1 Timothy 5:24, Hebrews 6:2, Hebrews 10:27, James 2:13, 1 Peter 4:17, 2 Peter 2:3-4, 9, 2 Peter 3:7, 1 John 4:17, Jude 6, 15, Revelation 20:4.

253802