

Th122 Foundation Doctrines

Lesson Th122 – 26 Eternal Judgment – Christ the Judge

The man stood in the courtroom facing the judge. He was accused of breaking the law. The government's attorney had presented the case for the prosecution. The man's attorney had presented a defense. All of the testimony, presenting of evidence, and recitation of the law were finished. The man stood before the judge who would give judgment. The man was terrified. The judge looked down on the man and pronounced his judgment. The law had clearly been broken. The law clearly stated that the man must pay an enormous fine or be sentenced to prison. The man hung his head in shame. His wife and young daughter began to weep. They knew that he had no money to pay the fine and that he would be going to prison for a long time. What do you think happened to the man? We will find out later in this lesson.

In the Book of Hebrews, we find this verse. "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Heb 9:27). Every human whom has ever lived has two appointments that they will not escape from. The first appointment is death. The second appointment is standing before the throne of Christ, the Judge.

The apostle John recorded Jesus saying this about himself:

The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word, and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Truly, truly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself, and has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment.

I can do nothing on my own authority; I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me (John 5:22-30, RSV).

Knowing that we will one day be judged by Jesus Christ, the King, is a very sobering thought. The Bible teaches us that our deeds will be judged. It would seem that by doing good deeds we can find favor with God. But we must study the teachings of Christ in their entirety to understand what judgment lies before us.

The apostle Paul wrote "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). The prophet Isaiah wrote "For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags" (Isa 64:6). Paul again wrote "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 6:23).

From these verses and many more, we learn that good deeds alone cannot remove the guilt and judgment that we deserve because of our sins. God's law clearly states that the payment for sin is death. But the apostle Peter explains God's remedy for the demand of his law. "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God" (1Peter 3:18). Christ gives life even now. The spiritually dead person who hears him receives life from him. We can know that we have eternal life. On that day when we will all stand before Jesus Christ, the Judge, the first question that must be answered is whether a person accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Remember the story we began this lesson with? The man standing before the judge was in dire trouble. The law demanded that he pay a fine or go to prison. It was impossible for the man to pay the fine. As his wife and daughter wept, the judge demanded that the man pay the fine or present himself for imprisonment. The man could not lift his head to face the judge. In great shame and embarrassment, he whispered, "I cannot pay the fine." The judge then did the unexpected. He reached into his own pocket and removed from his wallet a large amount of money. He offered it to the man, saying, "Here is the money to pay the price for your crime."

What do you think the man should do? Accept the free gift? What do you think the judge should do if the man rejects the gift? In the same way, Jesus Christ the Judge has already paid the price for our sins by dying on the cross in our place. He freely offers us this gift of salvation. Those who reject Christ have destined themselves to judgment.

This lesson is **important** because it clearly teaches from Scripture that every person deserves God's judgment for their sins. It just as plainly shows that Jesus already paid the price for our sins and took our judgment on the Cross.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that we can be saved by believing in Christ as our Lord, and receive the gift of eternal life.

The following questions will help you to **review** the lesson you have heard:

1. The book of Hebrews says that everyone is appointed to die and face what? [Pause 5 seconds]
A. If you said, "Everyone is appointed to die once and after that comes judgment," then you are correct.
2. Who does the Bible teach will be the judge of all humanity? [Pause 5 seconds]
A. If you said that Jesus Christ has been appointed the judge of all, you are correct.
3. Is doing good deeds enough to avoid eternal judgment? [Pause 5 seconds]
A. If you answered, "No, only through Jesus Christ can we be saved," then you answered correctly.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to listen to this lesson three times and then teach someone else about Jesus Christ, the Judge of all the earth.