

## Elementary Truths of Christianity – Eternal Judgment

Written and typed: 4/2/24

- The basics of any task must be learned before you can master the task
  - I'm a math guy and I was required to take algebra and trigonometry before I took calculus
  - I'm also a baseball guy, but I learned to hit the ball off of a tee before I learned to hit a ball that is pitched to me
  - We can see that this is true in numerous earthly applications
- So it should not surprise us to read that Christianity is no different
- **Hebrews 5:11 – 6:3**
  - Repentance
  - Faith
  - Baptism
  - The laying on of hands
  - The resurrection of the dead
  - Eternal judgment
  - All these are elementary truths of Christianity and all revolve around Christ
- We've talked about all of these in previous sermons
- And now we conclude our study of this topic with a sermon on the eternal judgment
  - A glorious day for those who are in the Lord
  - But a terrible day for those who are not
  - Let's approach this subject by asking and answering 5 questions – we're going to read a lot of Scriptures in this sermon, so buckle up and get your Bibles ready
- Question 1: Will there be an eternal judgment?
  - This is a pretty simple question as the fact that Hebrews 6:2 alludes to the eternal judgment being an elementary truth of Christianity should tell us that there will be some sort of an eternal judgment
  - **1 Corinthians 4:5**
    - There is an appointed time for the judgment day – and on it, God will bring to light what is in darkness and He will expose the motives of the hearts of men
  - **2 Peter 2:4**
    - We won't get into a study of 2 Peter and identify the specifics of who these angels are, what they did, etc.
    - For now just note that these angels being referred to here sinned
    - And they were sent to gloomy dungeons in hell until the final judgment
    - So again, there's a final judgment being referred to here
  - **Acts 17:31**
    - God has already determined the day in which He will judge the world
    - We obviously do not know what that day is, but it will happen when God wants it to happen

- His proof of this: Jesus was raised from the dead
  - And just like Jesus was raised from the dead, so we can be raised with Him on the last day if we are found to be faithful (1 Thessalonians 4)
- Hebrews 9:27
  - If the Lord doesn't come back in your lifetime, you will die physically (1 Corinthians 15:51 tells us that there will be people who are alive when the Lord returns)
  - If we are alive when the Lord returns or if we die before that day – we will face judgment either way
  - That's already been determined – we have no choice in the matter
  - It is simply a fact
- So these Scriptures prove that there will be a final judgment day
- Question 2: Who will be subject to this judgment?
  - Romans 14:10-12
    - We will **all** stand before God's judgment seat
    - Those who are alive when He returns and those who have died
    - No one will be exempt
    - And every knee will bow before the Lord
    - Every tongue will confess that He is God
    - Why would you wait until the judgment day to do this?
    - Acknowledge Him now and be obedient, and then the day of judgment will end a lot better for you than if you don't
    - You do not want to be acknowledging God for the first time on the day of judgment
  - 2 Corinthians 5:10
    - We will **all** stand before the judgment seat
    - And we will receive what is due us – whether it be good or bad
  - So we can see from the Scriptures, that everyone will face God in judgment
  - No one is exempt – neither dead nor alive
- Question 3: Who will be the judge?
  - Romans 2:16
    - God will judge through Christ Jesus
    - Matthew 28:18 – Jesus has been given all authority in heaven and earth
    - Who gave Jesus this authority? God the Father (1 Corinthians 15:27)
    - Everything is under Jesus' authority – except for God the Father (1 Corinthians 15:27)
    - The church belongs to Christ (Matthew 16:18) – He is the head of it, the church is His bride (Ephesians)
    - Everything and everyone with the exception of God the Father is under Jesus' authority
  - John 5:22-30
    - The judgment has been entrusted to the Son – Jesus

- God the Father has given authority to Jesus to be the judge
  - And His judgment will be just –because He seeks to please the Father
- 2 Timothy 4:1
  - Again, we can see that Jesus is the judge
  - And again, He will judge all –the living and the dead
  - No one will be exempt
- Genesis 18
  - Do you remember the 3 men that visited Abraham’s camp in Genesis 18?
  - They are described as men (starting in vs 2 & then multiple instances afterward), but there was something special about them because when he saw them, Abraham hurried from his tent to meet them and bow before them (vs 2)
  - Abraham calls at least one of them ‘lord’ (vs 3)
  - Interestingly, they ate (vs 8)
  - And at least one of them is referred to as ‘The Lord’ (starting in vs 17)
    - And we know that He is in some position of authority, because vs 19 tells us that He chose Abraham to be in the position that he was in
  - Then in vs 22, we get some clarity – 2 of these are again described as men, but 1 is described as the Lord
  - And in vs 25 – Abraham refers to the Lord who he stayed back with while the other 2 went to Sodom, as the judge of all the earth
  - Vs 22-25
    - Some of speculated that this is Jesus here, and I would agree with that based on the NT Scriptures we just read stating that Jesus will be the judge
- So based on all these Scriptures that we’ve just reviewed, we can see that Jesus will be our judge and He will do so justly
- He will not play favorites –it doesn’t matter who you are, you will receive at judgment that which you deserve
- Question 4: What will we be judged upon?
  - Ecclesiastes 12:14
    - Every deed we’ve done will be brought before God
    - Nothing will be hidden –good or evil
    - Think back to your childhood – there were things you could get by your parents sometimes, but you aren’t going to get anything by God
  - Hebrews 4:12-13
    - God’s Word is defined as a double-edged sword
    - Why is it double-edged? Because it can save or it can condemn
    - Nothing is hidden from God’s sight
    - Everything is uncovered and laid bare before God’s sight
    - Again, you aren’t going to sneak anything passed God
  - 2 Thessalonians 1:8

- We will be judged based on if we've followed God's plan of salvation or not
- If you haven't, then you will be eternally punished
- Today is the day of salvation – do not wait if you are in this condition

○ John 12:48

- The words that Jesus spoke will condemn those who are not obedient to His words
- And to that you may say, so I just need to listen to what Jesus says?
- Certainly – you must listen to what Jesus says, but those who were sent by Jesus are also approved of Jesus (Matthew 10:40-42)
- All Scripture is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16)
- You must be obedient to the Bible in its completeness, you can't just pick and choose the things that Jesus specifically stated
- There are things that we don't have record of Jesus saying, but they are said elsewhere in the Bible
- That does not make them irrelevant – on any given subject, the fact that it is in the Bible makes the instruction relevant
- So we will be judged by the words of the Bible

○ Matthew 12:36

- We must give account for every careless word we have spoken
- Again, the idea that nothing will get by God is reinforced

- You may say well, I'll just remain neutral – that way I won't do anything bad and I won't have to work for the Lord while on earth

○ Revelation 3:16

- Jesus says to the church at Laodicea that because they are lukewarm, they will be spit out if they remain in that state
- So we can't be neutral
- Either you are 100% with God, or you are 100% His enemy (Matthew 12:30)
- And being His enemy has consequences that you do not want to face

- So these Scriptures prove that we will all be judged based on our actions – specifically if we were obedient to God's Word or not which includes being obedient to His plan of salvation

- Question 5: What are the potential outcomes?

○ Matthew 25:1-30

- Vs 1-13: the parable of the ten virgins
  - Of these 10 virgins, 5 were foolish and 5 were wise
  - The foolish didn't have any oil – thinking they could get it while they were waiting for the bridegroom, after all – they've been waiting on him for a while
  - The wise were prepared though – they had their oil
  - And they all fall asleep while waiting for the bridegroom
  - But then he comes in the middle of the night

- Those who did not have oil tried hastily going to buy some, but they were too late
- By the time they got back, the bridegroom had already went into the wedding banquet with the 5 wise virgins who were prepared
- The foolish were not able to get in
- So we can see that the wise were with the bridegroom (Christ), but the foolish were not with Christ –so those are the 2 outcomes here
- Vs 14-30: the parable of the talents
  - The master distributed talents to his servants based on their abilities
  - 2 of the servants gained more for the master
  - While 1 of the servants took the talent he had and buried it – did absolutely nothing to try and earn more
  - To the ones who earned more talents, the following is said (vs 23)
  - To the one who buried his talent, the following is said (26-30)
  - The faithful were able to share in the master’s happiness (God)
  - While the unfaithful was thrown outside into outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth – away from God
  - So again, you can see that we can either be with God in eternity or without Him

○ Revelation 20:11-15

- There exists a book of life
- All are going to be judged based on the things recorded in the other books that are present
  - Remember from previous passages we’ve discussed, we’ll have to answer for all the deeds we’ve done –good, evil, and even every careless word
  - Nothing is going to get by God
- For those whose names were in the book of life, they were spared from the second death which is the lake of fire (you’re with God)
- But for those whose names are not in the book of life – they were thrown into the lake of fire and have to experience the second death
- So again you can see that you’ll either be with God or away from Him – away from Him in Revelation 20 is described as a lake of fire (eternal condemnation, the second death)

○ Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, 47-52

- Jesus tells 2 similar parables and He explains 1 – the parable of the weeds (with explanation) and the parable of the net
- The parable of the weeds
  - Good seed was sown by the man with servants (Jesus and His angels) – the field is the world, and the good seed are the sons of the kingdom

- While they were sleeping, his enemy (the devil) sowed weeds (sons of the devil)
- So the output was wheat and weeds
- Instead of pulling the weeds up immediately, the servants were told to wait for the harvest as to not accidentally pull any of the wheat up with the weeds
- At the harvest (the end of the age) – that’s when they will be separated
- The wheat to be with the master in his barn (the eternal kingdom of the Father)
- The weeds will be burned in the fiery furnace (eternal condemnation – the lake of fire in Revelation 20)

○ Romans 14:10-12

- The inevitable outcome: you will bow your knee before God and confess Him
- Do it now – if so, the day of judgment will end much better for you

- Question 6: What Scriptural advice is there concerning the judgment day?

○ Be prepared

○ Matthew 25:31-46

- We need to be ready for the judgment day
- The sheep will be put on His right
- And the goats will be put on His left
- The ones on the right will be rewarded – because they served faithfully
- But the ones on the left will be condemned to eternal punishment – because they did evil deeds? NO – because they did not live faithfully
- They overlooked the hungry, thirsty, the sick, etc.
- You can be a good person by today’s moral standards and miss out on heaven
- You must be faithful to the Lord and His plan of salvation

○ Matthew 24:36-51

- We don’t know when the last day will be
- Just as those of Noah’s day – they had no clue that there was going to be a flood, but it came all of a sudden and wiped the sin out of the world
- That’s exactly how the last day will come – to many, it will be unexpected and they will be unprepared
- Christians need to keep watch though, and always be prepared
- On the day of His return, let Him find you living faithfully

○ 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

- Again, we do not know the day of the Lord’s return
- But it will come like a thief to those who are unprepared – Peace and Safety they will cry, and then it will come
- As a Christian though, we need to be ready – it does not need to catch us by surprise

- To be ready is to be self-controlled – that’s a quality of the faithful Christian (Galatians 5)
    - If we are ready on that day, we will receive salvation through Jesus
    - We need to encourage our brethren to be ready as well
  - Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
    - Fear God and keep His commandments – this is our duty
    - When we do otherwise, we are not fulfilling our duty (Ephesians 2:10 would support that as well)
    - Why must we do this? Because the judgment day has been appointed
    - And everything we’ve done will be laid bare before the Lord
  - Acts 17:16-34
    - Paul is in Athens
    - And he reasoned with the Athenians
    - They had many statues and altars to various ‘gods’
    - And he used this as an opportunity to preach to them of the 1 true God – who was unknown to them
    - Vs 30 – Paul tells them that ignorance of the 1 true God is no excuse – that everyone needs to repent of their ways and follow Him
    - Because there has been appointed a judgment day
    - And we do not want to be found unready
- All of these Scriptures indicate that we need to be ready for His appearing
- We do so by living a faithful life unto Him
- Because ultimately, if we’re prepared God sees the following
  - He sees that you are clothed with Christ (Galatians 3:27)
  - He sees that you are sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14)
  - And He says: this person is mine
  - We need to be living in such a way that God will say that about us on the judgment day – it’s real and we need to be prepared
- God’s plan of salvation is simple
  - **Step 1: Hearing the gospel** – *Romans 10:13-17*
    - Gospel = Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, arose, and appeared to many – *1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Romans 1:16*
  - **Step 2: Believing the gospel** – *Mark 16:16, John 3:16*
  - **Step 3: Confession that Jesus is Lord** – *Romans 10:8-10, 1 John 1:9*
  - **Step 4: Repentance of sins** – *Luke 13:3, Acts 2:38*
    - Repentance: a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God. Change of mind that produces a change in action.
  - **Step 5: Baptism into Christ** – *Galatians 3:27, Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1-10, 1 Peter 3:21-22*
    - Baptism: immerse or submerge
  - **Step 6: Live faithfully** – *Revelation 2:10*