

## Lesson 15 Page 1<sup>1</sup>

The Bible clearly teaches that everyone shall give an account to God for the things they have done here on earth. This is not unreasonable. A child must give account of himself to his parents, the student to the teacher, etc., so why not the creature to the Creator. The principles of Judgment is recognized among men. When someone breaks the law of the land, he is judged and if found guilty is punished by imprisonment.

**There are five (5) great Judgments mentioned with detail in the Bible.**

**1. The first great Judgment was of man** - Back in Genesis when Adam and Eve broke God's Commandment - "*Though shalt not...*" God judged them, found them guilty and pronounced the Judgment of death (not only physical but spiritual) upon them. That sentence was passed upon the whole human race. Rom. 5:12 - "*Wherefore as by one man sin entered the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned.*"

**2. The second great Judgment was when Christ took our sins upon Himself.** II Cor. 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.*"

**The guilt of the whole world was laid on Him (Christ).**

That is the reason Christ has to take upon Himself human flesh. For remember, **Christ is God, and God cannot die!!** Therefore, to die for our sins He had to take upon Himself humanity. Phil 2:6-8 - "*Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal of God. But made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*"

Before he was born the angel of the Lord said to Joseph, "**Thou shalt call His name, Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.**" Matt. 1:21 - "*At his birth He was wrapped in swaddling clothes (burial clothes). He was born to die.*"

**What is death? Spiritual death is separation of the soul from God.** This is called the **second death**, and is experienced by all those who refuse to take Christ's substitutionary death for themselves. The first death is physical death - that is separation of the body from the soul. On the cross, God the Father, Himself, began at the beginning of sin in the Garden of Eden, and began to roll (all the sins of each human being) as a huge scroll. Then He went back to the end of time and rolled the other way, gathering up every sin that will ever be committed. **These were laid on Christ at the cross.** Thus all the sins of the human race were literally laid on Christ. Isa. 53:6 - "*All we like sheep have gone astray: we have turned every to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him, the iniquity of us all.*"

All sin was laid upon the sinless Christ and He became sin for us. Can't you just hear the hiss of the serpent in the very word SSSSin? **At that moment Christ actually became sin; God hates sin; sin separates from God.** Hanging there on the cross, **Christ took our second death, Hell, for us. He was separated from God.**

**Christ cried out - "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"** Christ had taken our sins. The fellowship with God the Father was broken! Oh how much God the Father loved us all to allow Christ to die in our place. John 3:16 - "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*" **Oh how God the Holy Spirit loves us to convict us of our sins and draw us to Christ.** Salvation is free; but it certainly wasn't cheap!! **Then after three hours of darkness a triumphant CRY with a loud voice (not a weak dying moan); Jesus cried, "IT IS FINISHED."** What was finished?? **The way for sinners to come back into fellowship with God.**

**Christ took our judgment; our Hell for us. But if the atoning substitutionary death of Christ is not accepted as our personal redemption; then we must be judged ourselves as the wages of sin is death. We will take our punishment which is eternal separation from God in Hell.** Rev. 21:8 - "*But the fearful, unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*"

Christ's death is sufficient for every sinner in the world. But, it is only **efficient** for the **whosoever's** that receive Him.

This second judgment then was poured out upon Christ, that need never come into judgment. John 5:24 - "*Verily, verily I say unto you, He that heareth the Word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*"

**3. The third Judgment is future, and is called the Judgment Seat of Christ.**

Remember in the last lesson we learned that after the Church (believers) are raptured, at the end of this age of grace; there is going to be seven years of tribulation on this earth. The believers are now in Heaven with Christ. This Judgment takes place in Heaven while the tribulation is going on in the earth. **This is the Judgment of the Christian** (not for our sins that would send us to Hell - remember, Christ bore that for us).

**This is the Judgment for the way we have lived after we became Christians.** II Cor. 5:10 - "*For we must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*"

Notice, **"we all"** - every one of us must give account to God. At the Judgment Seat of Christ, each Christian will either receive rewards or suffer loss. I Cor. 3:12-15 - "*Now if any man build upon this foundation, gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward; If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*"

**All our works (after we are saved) will be tested by fire.**

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**Hay - wood - and stubble** will be burned up. All those things we have done in the energy of the flesh, for self pleasure, self gain, for the praise of men.

**Gold - silver - and precious stones**, stand the test of fire and remain.

(1) **Gold**- Gold stands for God. Therefore anything we do for His honor and glory shall remain.

(2) **Silver** - Silver stands for redemption. Anything we do for the salvation of souls, from leading a soul to Christ to giving out a Gospel tract to a cup of water given in Christ's name all remain.

(3) **Precious Stones** - Christian graces - anything we do that enables us to be a better Christian, or help someone else to become a stronger Christian, lasts for eternity.

We don't work to earn our salvation; that is a free gift, but after we are saved, we work **because we are saved!** Because we love Him; because we don't want to see others go to Hell - so that we won't be ashamed when we stand before Him.

**4. The fourth great Judgment the Bible tells us about is also future.** This is "**The Judgment of Nations.**" This takes place at the close of the tribulation period, after the Battle of Armeggedon; when Christ sets up His millennial Kingdom. Here is the scripture for this Judgment: Matt. 24:29-31 *"Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from Heaven, and the powers of the Heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in Heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of Heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of Heaven to the other."*

Matt. 25:31-34 - *"When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory. And before Him shall be gathered all the nations; and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. And He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on His left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."*

**Those nations that are placed on His right hand, had been kind to the "Jews" during the tribulation, while those placed on the left hand were nations that mistreated the Jews during this period.** It is still true that he that blesses Israel, God shall bless. Gen. 12:3 - *"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall families of the earth be blessed."*

**Now - truly His (Christ's) Kingdom on earth has come, and we go into the 1,000 years reign with Him.** Rev. 11:15 - *"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in Heaven, saying, "The Kingdoms of the world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever."*

**Also read Isaiah 11:1-10.**

**5. The fifth and the last great Judgment detailed in the Bible is called, The Great White Throne Judgment.**

This is the **Judgment of all the unsaved people of all ages.** Rev. 20:11-15 - *"And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the Heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened; which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things that were written in the books; according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and Hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death. And whoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**"*

Read again verse 15 - **"And whosoever were not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."**

Notice only those whose names are **not** found in the book of life will stand before the Great White Throne to be judged. And they are not judged on how good or bad they have been but they are judged on whether or not their names are written in the **Book of Life. Everyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, has his or her name written in the book of life, and will never stand at this Judgment.**

Review lesson 10, where it explains how your name can be written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

### **POINTS TO REMEMBER**

(1) There are five main Judgments in the Bible.

(2) Two Judgments are past; three are yet in the future.

(3) The first Judgment occurred in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve sinned and the judgment of death was passed upon the whole human race.

(4) Death meant both physical, which is a separation of soul and body, and spiritual, which is separation of the soul from God.

(5) The second Judgment was when God laid upon Christ, the sins of us all at Calvary, and now all who come to God through Christ, stand in Christ's righteousness, and are brought back into fellowship with God.

(6) The third Judgment is for believers and is called, "The Judgment Seat of Christ." Here all Christians will be judged for their lives and works after they became a Christian. All our works will be tried by fire.

(7) Only the works of gold (anything done for God's glory); silver (anything done for the redemption of souls); precious stones (anything done to help yourself or others to become better Christians) will with stand the test of fire.

(8) The Judgment of the nations takes place after the Tribulation period, and this judgment is on how the nations have treated the Jews.

(9) The Great White Throne is the judgment of unbelievers and takes place after the 1,000 years millennial reign of Christ on this earth.

(10) Only those whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life will take part in the Great White Throne Judgment. Their final end is eternity in Hell.