

out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof on the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified: and by thy words thou shalt be condemned” (Matthew 12:35-37).

● **The Lord will be no respecter of persons.** Paul explained to the Colossian brethren, *“But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: there is no respect of persons” (Colossians 3:25).*

● **The judgment will be final.** When one dies — either safe in the Lord, or never having had his sins washed away in obedience to Christ — his status before the Lord cannot be changed. His relatives cannot save him by their prayers, or by paying others to pray that he will be saved. There will be no second chance for him. That is why one must prepare to meet God in this life, by obeying Him and by being faithful unto death (Mark 16:16; Revelation 2:10).

● **The Lord will send the wicked into everlasting punishment but will give the righteous life eternal (Matthew 25:46).** One existence is just as lasting as the other. In other words, the lost, sinful, ungodly, and unfaithful will be cast into torment forever and ever. Some would challenge, “That’s not fair! A loving God would not

do that!” But we can’t blame God. He loved all of humanity and gave His Son to provide salvation for everyone. If a soul rejects that love, grace, and mercy, then he is the one who will have to face the consequences of his actions. Those who do obey God and remain faithful to him will dwell with the Lord forever in the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21,22).

“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 whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:13-15).

“He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Revelation 22:20).

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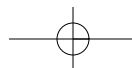
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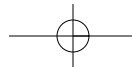
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The Judgment to Come

J.C. Choate





The Judgment to Come

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People often live their lives as though this existence is all there is, that there will be no after-life, and therefore they act as though there will be no judgment. The Bible teaches that there *will* be a judgment day for all of us

How do the Scriptures describe what will happen in that moment of time? *“... the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power”* (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised...” (1 Corinthians 15:52). *“... and fire came down from God out of heaven ... And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

“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 which were written in the books, according to their works” (Revelation 20:9-12).

- **No human being knows when that day will be — it is a day appointed by the Lord.** We read in the scripture, *“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”* (Hebrews 9:27).

- **All who have ever lived, or who will ever live, will be there.** Paul wrote, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad”* (2 Corinthians 5:10). Again, he said, *“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God”* (Romans 14:12).

- **God will judge everyone through Christ and His word.** Paul explained to the Athenians, *“And the times of this ignorance God winked at: but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he 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”* (Acts 17:30,31). Christ warned, *“He that rejected me,*

and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).

“... judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” (1 Peter 4:17)

- **This statement by Peter identifies the dividing line in judgment.** The **“house of God”** (1 Timothy 3:15) is the **“household”** (Ephesians 2:19), the **“kingdom”** (Ephesians 5:5), the **“body”** (1 Corinthians 12:27), the **“church”** (Colossians 1:24), the **“bride”** (Ephesians 5:23, 31,32) of Christ. **First of all, we must be in that body in order to be saved in the judgment.**

How do we get into that body? By, as Peter said, *“... obeying the gospel”*. 1 Corinthians 12:13 explains, *“... For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body...”* Being buried with Christ in baptism, we are then raised to walk that new life in Him (Romans 6:3,4).

- As Christians, living obediently and safely within the spiritual fold of God, we can face the judgment with confidence and hope. We will be judged by the way we have lived, by our thoughts, and by our words. Christ declared, *“A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man*

