

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 5:24-29

Lesson #20

The Final Work of God

11/29/2015

**Eternal judgment is among the elementary foundations of Christian faith.**

## Hebrews 6

“<sup>1</sup> Therefore leaving the **elementary teaching** about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup> of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the **resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.**”

1

## Context

- **Jesus is talking about his authority as the Son of God to carry out His final work.**

### John 5

“<sup>21</sup> For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. <sup>22</sup> For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup> in order 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.**”

2

“<sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. <sup>25</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear shall live. <sup>26</sup> For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; <sup>27</sup> and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. <sup>28</sup> Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, <sup>29</sup> and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.”

3

## Does Jesus come to judge or not to judge?

### John 3:17

“For God **did not send the Son into the world to judge the world**, but that the world might be saved through him.”

### 1st Advent



### John 5:27

“<sup>27</sup> and He gave Him **authority to execute judgment**, because He is the Son of Man.”

### 2nd Advent

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## Are believers judged or not judged?

### John 5:24

“truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and **does not come into judgment**, but has passed out of death into life.”

### 2 Corinthians 5:10

“For **we must all appear before the judgment-seat of Christ**, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”



5



## Is the judgment based on deeds or faith?

*John 5:29*

“and shall come forth; those who did the **good deeds** to a resurrection of life, those who committed the **evil deeds** to a resurrection of judgment.”

*John 3:18*

“He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because **he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**”

6



## How can it be?

1. All will be judged on the basis of their works.

2. Believers will be judged along with the world.

3. Eternal life is at stake.

4. There is none righteous.

But

5. Christ's death is the propitiation for the sins of the world..

6. Believers are imputed with the righteousness of Christ by faith.

7. There is no condemnation for those in Christ.

## Options

1. Faith is a means to “good works.”

2. Faith is authenticated by “good works.”

3. There are two kinds of judgment.

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## Revelation 20:5 suggests that there is more than one resurrection.

*Revelation 20:4-5*

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and **they came to life** and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. **This** is the **first resurrection.**”

8

## Paul suggests that Jesus was the 1st fruits of a resurrection of all who are “in Christ.”

*1 Corinthians 15*

“<sup>20</sup> But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the **first fruits** of those who are asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ all shall be made alive.** <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,”

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## 1st Resurrection (to eternal life)

**Jesus  
“1st fruits”**

**All who are  
“in Christ”**

Book of Life

## 2nd Resurrection (to condemnation)

**All who are left in their sins**

10

## John suggests that there are two books that play a part in the final judgment.

*Revelation 20*

“<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; **and another book was opened, which is the book of life;** and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. . . <sup>15</sup> And if anyone's name was **not found written in the book of life**, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

*Those whose names were in the book of life escaped condemnation.*

11



Justification before God  
is by the Cross not but by the Spirit.

Surrogate  
(Substitute)

Faith apart  
from works



Paraclete  
(Enabler)

Faith that is  
expressed in  
faithfulness

12

Two types of righteousness

Legal position - "In Christ" by faith  
(the Gospel message)



13

The Roman Catholic solution to the  
judgment of believers by works



14

The Protestant solution to the  
judgment of believers by works



15

Our legal standing in Christ is our **security**

Legal position "in Christ"  
(instant & perfect)



16

Our life-style in Christ is our **significance**.

"In Christ" by faith  
(our message)



17





**Positional holiness  
makes us fit for heaven.**



**Practiced holiness  
makes us fit for earth.**

18

### 1 Corinthians 3

“<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. <sup>11</sup> For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if any man **builds upon the foundation** with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. <sup>14</sup> If any man’s work which he has built upon it remains, he shall **receive a reward**. <sup>15</sup> If any man’s work is burned up, he shall **suffer loss**; but **he himself shall be saved**, yet so as through fire”

**How Christians build on their faith in Christ is the issue.**

**Reward and loss (not salvation) is the result of the believer’s judgment.**

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### 1 Corinthians 3

“<sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. <sup>7</sup> So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. <sup>8</sup> Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but **each will receive his own reward according to his own labor**. <sup>9</sup> For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

**Moral virtue**

Christ’s provision  
for our need of  
holiness

**Ministry value**

our labor for the  
building up of the  
Body of Christ

20

## 1. Strategic REPENTANCE



(the sin  
of unbelief)  
Worldly  
hopes



Kingdom  
hopes

**Conversion to faith in Christ**

21

## 2. Tactical repentance



(Sinful ways)  
Worldly  
attachments,  
attitudes, and  
actions



Kingdom  
living

**Communion with God & others**

22

### What does all this mean?

- Jesus as the Son of God and Son of Man is both God and Messiah / King with full authority to grant life and judge lives.
- Every person must answer to a holy God on the basis of moral merit (works).
- Those with faith “in Christ”:
  - 1) have their names written into the “book of life”.
  - 2) have their sins atoned for at the Cross.
  - 3) have the good works of Christ imputed to them.
  - 4) will not face condemnation.
  - 5) will have their motives judged for rewards (not salvation).

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