

6 ACCORDING TO LIGHT RECEIVED 2:12 -- Every person will be judged by the amount of light available to him. Every man is without excuse before God because God has written His laws in men's hearts (In their conscience) (Romans 2:15). We are not only responsible for the light of conscience given to every man, but also for the further light available to us in God's Holy Word the Bible. Our responsibility includes not only what we know about truth, but also what we should have known (Matthew 11:20). We who have a Bible in our language, a Church on every corner, Christian radio, TV, tapes, books, abundantly seminars available to us are more accountable to God than those who do not have the same privileges (Luke 11:29-32). "...That servant who knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to His will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required..." (Luke 12:47,48).

7 ACCORDING TO RESPONSE TO THE WORD 2:13-15 -- It is important to read, study, and memorize the Bible. It is important to attend Church and hear the Bible preached. But, it is possible to be doing all these activities and doing nothing more than filling the mind with Bible knowledge. Bible knowledge makes a man proud and leads to a fall (1 Corinthians 8:1,2 Proverbs 16:18). God wants His Word to be "engrafted" into our lives (James 1:21). It is not the one who has heard the Word that will be justified at God's judgment, but he that has yielded his life in obedience to the Word (Matthew 7:21 John 8:31 James 1:22-25) If our hearing of the Bible has not made any difference in our living of the Bible, then it will not be of any benefit to us at the judgment.

8 ACCORDING TO THE SECRETS OF MEN 2:16 -- Man looks on the outward appearance, God looks on the heart (1 Samuel 16:7). What appears to be gold, silver and precious stones in the lives of men may be only wood, hay and stubble that is burned up at the judgment (1 Corinthians 3:12,13). All the secret sins of men will one day be revealed -- "...judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts; and then shall every man have praise of God.

CONCLUSION

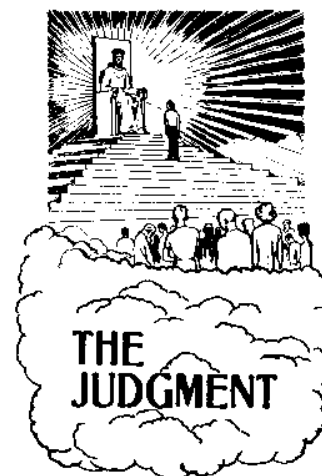
Judgment in the Bible is linked with the return of Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 4:8). Therefore, every person is admonished by Jesus to be ready for His return and not to let that day overtake them by surprise!

But of that day and hour knoweth no [man], no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe [were], so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two [women shall be] grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matthew 24:36-44).

THE CORNERSTONE

BIBLICAL ANSWERS TO CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

THE JUDGMENT



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IT IS APPOINTED UNTO MEN ONCE TO DIE, BUT AFTER THIS THE JUDGMENT" (Hebrews 9:27).

THE CERTAINTY OF JUDGMENT: A false religion may be identified by their doctrines about God's judgment. The Jehovah Witnesses teach that all unbelievers at their moment of death are simply annihilated. Death is the cessation of a person's existence. The Mormons teach that all men will make it to one of three levels of heaven. Many people are attracted to these religions groups because both of them offer a religion that excludes any fear of God's judgment. They teach "...peace, peace; when there is no peace" (Jeremiah 6:13,14). Jesus teaches quite the contrary in John 5:28,29: "...the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth: they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life: and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation. **THERE IS** a resurrection and judgment of ALL men! Consider the following scriptures:

"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. 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 20:11-15).

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 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 of what sort it is. If any 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" (1 Corinthians 3:11-15)

God has put the certainty of judgment in the hearts of all men (Romans 1:32). The creature, having been created by God in His image, is accountable to the Creator (Romans 9:14-24). Because God is holy and righteous, sin must be judged (1 Peter 1:13-17). The whole world is accountable to God and can only be justified through the salvation provided in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:19-28)

THE PURPOSE OF JUDGMENT: Judgment day does not determine where a person will spend eternity. A man's eternal destiny is determined by his relationship to Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:8,9 John 3:18-21 5:24) God's judgment only determines the degree of rewards in heaven or degrees of condemnation in hell. (Revelation 20:11-15 1 Corinthians 3:11-17) Receiving or rejecting Christ determines where a man will spend eternity; his works determine how he will spend eternity.

EIGHT PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S JUDGMENT Romans 2

1 ACCORDING TO OUR JUDGMENT OF OTHERS 2:1 -- One great truth about life is that a man's relationship to God can be measured by his relationship to people. The man who doesn't love the people around him that he can see, doesn't love God whom he cannot see (4:20). The man who condemns and judges others has the same root problem in his own life (Romans 1:1,2 Matthew 7:1-5). The man who is bitter towards God expresses it in anger towards people (Genesis 4:1-15). The person who has constant conflicts with people reveals his lack of peace with God (Matthew 5:9 2 Timothy 2:24,25 James 1:13-18).

2 ACCORDING TO TRUTH 2:2 -- Truth is not determined by what other people are doing; not by what is acceptable with men, but by what is acceptable with God (Luke 16:15). For instance, what does God say about divorce compared to what men say about divorce (Matthew 19:6)? What does God say about gambling and the lottery compared to what men say (Proverbs 28:22)? God's standards concerning music, clothing, friends, tv viewing, debt, abortion, sodomy etc. are very different from the world's standards (James 4:4 1st John 2:15-17).

3 ACCORDING TO GOODNESS OF GOD 2:3 -- The pleasures of sin only last for a season (Hebrews 11:25). After the pleasures come the consequences -- "...be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23). "Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). God does not immediately strike people dead living in sin. Before judgment, God's mercy and goodness always gives a man space (time) to repent (Revelation 2:21,22). The person who continues in a lifestyle of sin continually rejecting God's conviction is warned of sudden destruction without remedy (Prov. 29:1). Sin always has consequences both in this life and in the life to come! Every hidden sin in our life will one day face the bar of God's judgment (Luke 8:16-18 12:2,3).

4 ACCORDING TO THE DEEDS OF BODY 2:6 -- God reveals in His Word that there are 5 areas of every man's life that will be judged on judgment day.

1 every thought we think 2 Cor. 10:4,5

"(For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ"

2 every action we carry out 2 Cor. 5:10

"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."

3 every word we speak Matt. 12:36,37

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

4 every attitude we carry Jer. 17:9,10

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I test the conscience, even to give to every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings."

5 every motive we maintain 1 Cor. 4:5

"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God."

5 ACCORDING TO NO RESPECTOR OF PERSONS 2:11 -- The ground is level at the foot of the cross. A man's riches, fame or success will gain him no extra privileges with God on judgment day. In fact, the Bible warns that all these accomplishments could indeed be the very thing that keeps a man separated from God for all eternity. "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:36,37). If you have everything in life but Christ, you have nothing. If you have nothing in life but Christ, you have everything!