

Let The Bible Speak Series

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Five Solemn Facts About The Judgment

Today I want to discuss a topic that we have titled Five Solemn Facts About The Judgment. Our reading comes from 2Corinthians 5:9-11 "Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God and I also trust are well known in your consciences." Standing before the judgment seat of Christ will be a solemn event, one that should evoke great respect on our part. Everyone recognizes and admits to the frailty of life. Everyone is aware that all men die. But not all men agree that there will be a judgment after this life is over. The scriptures, however, testify to the certainty of this event. Romans 1:32 "who knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them." Romans 2:2 "But know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?" Heb. 9:27 "It is appointed unto man once to die and after this the judgment."

Jude 6 "And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;"

Jude 14-15 "...the Lord who comes with ten thousand of his saints, to execute judgment on all..." This will be a solemn occasion, one of serious contemplation, and far reaching consequences. The first solemn fact:

I. Not Everyone Will Be Saved.

There is no such thing as universal salvation. This is just a false doctrine taught by the universalist. All men will appear before God on that day. John 5:28-29 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all that are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of condemnation." Mt. 13:24-30 "Another parable He put forth to them saying, The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop then the tares also appeared. So the servants of the owner came and said to him, Sir did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares? He said to them, an enemy has done this. The servants said to him, do you want us then to go and gather them up? But he said no lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles and burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." Mt. 7:21 "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven..." All these passages clearly show that not everyone will be saved.

Some will be lost and sentenced to eternal punishment. This is a solemn thought that raises the prospect that we might be in the group that is lost.

II. The Majority of People Will Be Lost.

Though not pleasant it is nevertheless the truth. Mt. 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and there are many who go in by it." The narrow way is as broad as the love of God can make it. Jesus did not make it narrow, he merely states a fact. It is also a fact that few will find it and that many will choose the broad way that leads to destruction. Deut.

11:26 "Behold I set before you a blessing and a curse. The blessing if you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you today, and a curse if you do not obey the commandments..." Deut. 30:19 "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live." Some people say "How can a loving God do this?"

1. 1Peter 3:20-21 Only eight souls were saved in the days of Noah.

2. In Genesis 19:11 only three were saved from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

3. In America over 65 million people never enter a religious meeting house of any kind. Only 8% of the nation's population attend morning services of some kind. Two percent attend night services of some kind. Less than 1/10 of one percent attend a mid-week service anywhere. Mt. 7:22 "Many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name, in your name cast out devils and done many wonders in your name? And then will I declare unto them depart from Me you who practice lawlessness."

III. Many Will Perish That Expect To Be Saved.

This is a sad fact, perhaps the saddest of all, but true. Among these will be many religious people. Mt. 15:9 "In vain they worship me, teaching for doctrines..."

If worship of God is to be undertaken on any basis, that assures acceptance and ultimate reward, it must be on the basis of revelation. The precepts of men are without any value at all in this whole area. "Is it from heaven or from men? That is the question.

It will be tragic to think you are saved and then be lost. Hence we must make it as sure as we can.

There is no room for error. We must have an active, living religion if we would be saved. James 1:22

"But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." Mt. 7:21 "Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord shall enter,... but he that doeth..."

IV. There Is No Salvation After Death.

Regardless of the teachings of various religious groups, man will not be given another chance after death to be saved. According to the Bible, it is now or never.

Luke 16 the rich man and Lazarus. It was too late for the rich man. He had neglected his salvation.

1Cor. 15:12-15 "Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty." 2Cor. 6:2 For he says in an acceptable time; I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you. Behold now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation." Heb. 9:27 "It is appointed unto man..." Acts 17:30-31 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at but now..."

The parable of the wise and foolish virgins. Mt. 25 This parable illustrates a scene in the earthly life of all the disciples of Jesus. The occasion is both solemn and decisive.

The Jewish marriages and feasts which followed them were celebrated at night.

The newly married couple went from the house of the bride in the procession after nightfall accompanied by attendants bearing torches to light the way.

Another party went forth to meet them with torches and accompanied them to the house of the bridegroom where a feast was prepared. "Lamps" were made like torches by wrapping up a roll of linen and inserting it in a mould of copper or earthenware fixed to a handle of wood. It contained very little oil. From time to time the linen had to be supplied with fresh oil from another vessel which was carried in the other hand.

In this parable the bridegroom accompanied by his friends go at night to the residence of his bride and brought her to his own home. She was accompanied by her young companions; at some point on the way another group of virgins were waiting to join the procession and share in the festivities. The waiting involved watching and preparation with burning lamps. While the bridegroom tarried they all

nodded and slept. The announcement was made of the approaching bridegroom. Five were ready to join the procession, but the foolish were not ready. They asked others to supply them with oil as their lamps were going out. The wise refused because they did not have a sufficient supply. The foolish go away to buy oil. The bridegroom went into his house, and those who were prepared and present went in also and the door was shut.

Later the five foolish virgins came and asked to be admitted, but received the answer "I know you not."

The Lesson: "watch therefore for you know not the day nor the hour."

The application is clear: Those not ready when Jesus returns will not have another opportunity to make preparations. All preparations must be made now, today, before death or His return.

V. This May Be The Last Opportunity For Someone Present.

No man has the assurance of tomorrow. Prov. 27:1 "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth." James 4:14 "whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." 1 Thess. 5:2 "For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night." God bids us come: Rev. 3:20 "Behold I stand at the door and knock..." Luke 9:23 "If anyone desires to come to me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." Why not accept the gift of salvation by complying with Heaven's requirements? Hear, Believe, Repent, Confess, and be Baptized. Do these solemn facts mean nothing to you? Do they strike you as being serious and true? Surely you don't want to wait too long. You will die, you will be judged, Will you be ready? Abner, a renowned warrior, the commander-in-chief of Saul's army. It was he who conducted David into the presence of Saul after the death of Goliath. Later he was pursued by Asahel, the brother of Joab. He begged him to cease following him, but he refused. He then killed him in self defense. Joab then took up the pursuit. The fatal encounter took place at Hebron where Joab took Abner aside and slew him. David lamented his death by asking "should Abner die as a fool dies? i.e. without due process? He was not bound, his feet not in fetters. Hebron was a city of refuge. Had Abner entered the city he would have been safe. But when called aside by Joab, he went and that proved his undoing. Sinner friend are you close today? Will you make preparations while there is time or will you, like Abner, delay and be lost?