

## **Acts 17:30-31 - Life, Death, & Life After Death part 7**

### **Just Retribution or Gracious Reward**

Intro – We have moved through thinking about life & death...spent a few weeks examining life after death and the kind of life the dead live as disembodied souls. We looked at the resurrection... this future event when all mankind will be raised bodily and made whole again – body/soul/spirit – prepared for their very physical and very eternal eternity. Today we talk about the Judgment. We tend to avoid this subject like we avoid thinking about death. But one is as inevitable as the other... in fact they are somewhat connected. The dead will be judged. Believer and unbeliever will be judged. They will all be judged by He who was dead but is alive for evermore. All judgment is given to the Son (John 5:22). The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the great proof of the veracity of our faith and of who our faith is in – Jesus. It is also proof of life after death and judgment after death. We have it on good authority that there is life after death because Jesus died and that very day He was in Paradise and three days later was raised from the dead bodily. His resurrection proves there is life after death. It also proves that judgment is after death. God proved to the world that Jesus is righteous ... and is the only redeemer of sinners by raising Him from the dead. God also proved that death is no escape from judgment but is the doorway to judgment. Acts 17:31 Rev. 22:12

#### **1. WHEN IS THE JUDGMENT?**

- a. After death
  - i. Heb. 9:27 Rev. 20:12
- b. Accounts are not settled in this life (condemnation or vindication are after death – Rev. 11:18)
- c. Death is not an escape from judgment, it is a doorway to judgment

#### **2. HOW IS THE JUDGMENT CONDUCTED?**

- a. Righteously
  - i. Acts 17:31 Ps. 9:8 Ps. 96:13 Rev. 19:11 Rev. 16:7
  - ii. The judge of all the earth will do right Gen. 18:25
- b. No one will get a raw deal with God (Eccles. 3:16 – under the sun – yes...By the Son – NO!)
- c. People often fret about kids or people in disadvantaged circumstances
  - i. Rom. 2:11-12 Luke 12:47-48
- d. Hell is not one size fits all....(nor is heaven)
  - i. Matt. 11:21-24 some get greater condemnation – Luke 20:47

#### **3. WHAT IS JUDGED?**

- a. Works / Deeds Rev. 20:12 Rev. 22:12 Eccles. 12:14
- b. Words Matt. 12:36-37 (Eccles. 5:2 / Prov. 10:19)
- c. Thoughts / Motivations Ps. 139:1-3 Heb. 4:12-13
- d. Secrets Rom. 2:16 1 Cor. 4:5
- e. The whole of man will be judged by the Creator of man - Jer. 17:10

**4. WHO IS THE JUDGE?**

- a. Jesus Christ
  - i. John 5:22      Acts 10:42-43    Acts 17:31      2 Tim. 4:1      Matt. 25:31-33
  - ii. Jesus is the Judge of sinners and the only Savior of sinners
- b. The church will also have a part in the judgment
  - i. Luke 22:30      1 Cor. 6:2-3      Matt. 12:41-42

**5. WHO WILL BE JUDGED?**

- a. unbelievers AND believers...yes believer will be judged
  - i. 2 Cor. 5:9-11a      Rom. 14:10-12
- b. No condemnation ...but there is an evaluation
  - i. The believers sins were judged in Christ - Rom. 8:1    John 5:24
  - ii. The redeemed are saved by grace but the Redeemer will evaluate their works
    - 1. Eph. 2:8-10
- c. 1 Cor. 3:10-15
  - i. All the Christians works built on the Christ will be tested
  - ii. Many won't pass the test. (3:15)
- d. Treasure can be laid up in heaven or lost before heaven
  - i. Matt. 6:20-21      Luke 12:21
- e. Jesus will judge His people and reward them accordingly - (Rev. 22:12)
  - i. The persecuted - Matt. 5:10-12
  - ii. The secret prayers and givers - Matt. 6:4,6      Matt. 10:42
  - iii. 2 Tim. 4:7-8      1 Cor. 15:58      Heb. 6:10
- f. Rewards can be lost
  - i. 1 Cor. 9:27      (relay runner who hit opponent with the baton)
  - ii. 2 John 8
  - iii. Rev. 3:11      Col. 2:18
- g. Heaven will not be the same for everyone (nor will hell)
  - i. Some will be great and some will be least - Matt. 5:19
  - ii. Some will have more and some will have less - Luke 19:26
  - iii. Some will be ashamed at His coming - 1 John 2:28
  - iv. Some will be saved but suffer loss - 1 Cor. 3:15
  - v. Every cup will be full but every cup will not be the same size
- h. Rom. 14:10-12

**6. ARE YOU READY FOR THE JUDGMENT?**

- a. If you are not redeemed, then you are not ready
  - i. The Judge of sinners has already provided a way to save sinners
- b. If you are redeemed then you are ready but you also need to get ready
  - i. The Master will evaluate what we have done with what He has given us
  - ii. He saved us by grace through faith...not of ourselves...gift... Eph. 2:8,9 & 10
- c. God prepared that we should walk in them so we ought to prepare to give an account to Him.
- d. Rom. 14:12