

Turn in your Bibles tonight to 1 Peter, and yes, we are still in Chapter 1. We will be looking at verses 17 to 21 of Chapter 1. When it comes to speaking to someone about sin in their life and for that matter, just sharing the Gospel, there is a phrase that is spoken frequently. “Don’t judge me!” Or “You can’t judge me!” It has even been said to me, “Well, you are not my judge, only God can judge me!”

True! My next thought would be, “So you acknowledge that God is the ultimate judge. But how is God going to judge you?”

That is the point we are trying to get to when proclaiming the Gospel or talking to someone about sin. God is the ultimate judge and there is a standard by which he is going to judge you against! And does God judge everyone equally?

Let’s look at verses 17 to 21 of 1 Peter Chapter 1 tonight. As part of those verses, I would like to back up and read verses 15 and 16 as well because I believe those verses bring a lot of context to what we will see tonight.

***1 Peter 1:15-21***

***<sup>15</sup> But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup> since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” <sup>17</sup> And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup> He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you <sup>21</sup> who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.***

I wanted to read verses 15 and 16 again, because along with verse 17 we see a good description of salvation. We see in verses 15 and 16 a quote from the Levitical law that was given to Moses to give to the people of Israel. It reads as such from Leviticus Chapter 11 verses 44 and 45.

***Leviticus 11:44-45***

***<sup>44</sup> “For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. You shall not defile yourselves with any swarming thing that crawls on the ground. <sup>45</sup> For I am the Lord who brought you up out of the land of Egypt to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.”***

We look to the character of God to see why God is the ultimate judge and how it is with a sovereign hand that he extends justice. What is the key element to God’s character that is being expressed in all these verses?

Holiness! If we were to do a flowchart of God’s Character, I believe we will see all of who God is, is a derivative of his Holiness. We say God’s character, but we could also use the term that is used so often and that is the Attributes of God!

God is: Eternal, Creator, Omniscient, Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Sovereign, Faithful, Merciful, Loving, Just, and there are more we could add.

In the book of James, Jesus’ earthly half-brother, he describes how God is the only true judge of this earth.

**James 4:12**

***<sup>12</sup> There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?***

In the book of Psalms, we get some wonderful descriptions that point to God as the one true judge.

**Psalm 50:6**

***<sup>6</sup> The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge!***

**Psalm 75:7**

***<sup>7</sup> But it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.***

As I studied, I liked this verse in Isaiah Chapter 33, as Isaiah, in context, is describing God to the Israelites who God is. The book of Isaiah is written in times of Assyria oppression, with a look towards the Babylonian captivity, and the return back to Jerusalem. We know there were a lot of Messianic prophecies given to Isaiah as well.

**Isaiah 33:22**

***<sup>22</sup> For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver; the Lord is our king, he will save us.***

Again, in context, Isaiah is describing who God is and who he is specifically to Israel. We know that God chose the Nation of Israel to be his people. We know from Deuteronomy Chapter 7, the how, the why, and the what for of God's choosing of the nation of Israel.

I do have to mention this. You saw in that verse the name Lord three times. The Hebrew word for Lord there is: Jehovah – meaning, The Existing One, showing God's preeminence, sovereignty, and his majesty as being creator of and over all things in the universe.

Back to God's choosing of Israel. First, it is through Israel the messiah, the savior of the world would come through. Who is that? Jesus Christ In that promise, that hope, that anticipation of the savior's arrival, the nation of Israel were to be priests, prophets, missionaries of this promise to all the other nations around them. Proclaiming that God is the only true God, and is savior and is judge over all mankind.

How did all those verses describe God? God is the one and only true Judge. But how does he judge? Is he fair? Is he just? What does he judge by?

Before we look at that I want to look at a word that we see in verses 15 and 17. It is the word CALL!

In these two verses and in this word call we see the doctrinal truth of salvation and how it works. In verse 15 it says, "But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy." In verse 17 it says, "And if you call on him as Father."

We saw two calls or calling outs! One from God and one from the individual. How are we called to salvation? 2 Corinthians 7:10 says, "***For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.***"

Where does that godly grief come from? The Holy Spirit! What is the role of the Holy Spirit? Jesus said in John 16, And when he comes, he will:

***The Holy Spirit will convict the world concerning:***

1. *Sin*
2. *Righteousness*
3. *Judgment*

Jesus also said in John 6:44, ***“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.”*** In that drawing, in that calling, is the conviction of our sin, realizing our lack of righteousness, and realizing God’s righteousness that was displayed through Jesus Christ while on this earth.

This brings us to that point of godly sorrow, realizing, to use that word again, of what Jesus went through for us because of our sin.

Then, there has to be a call from us as well. We are not saved because our grandparents, parent, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, cousin, or even a friend are saved. We are not saved because we walk in a church. We are not saved because we want to do better for ourselves or our family.

We are saved when, as we do as Scripture tells us, ***Romans 10:13, “If anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved!” Romans 10:9-10, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”***

When that conviction of our sin takes place in our life and we call out to God to save our soul, we are awakened, if you will, to desire the things of God and we want to live for Jesus and seek to be holy as is commanded in verses 15 and 16. Just like in the song, Amazing Grace, we were once lost but we are now found, blind, but now we see, Amazing Grace!

If that has not happened in your life, then you are not saved. Therefore, we walk in this life in one of two ways. We know John 3:16

### ***John 3:17-18***

***<sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.***

### ***Romans 8:1-2***

***<sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.***

Everyone walks on this earth in one of two ways. Condemned to hell because of not repenting of their sins and believing on the name of Lord Jesus Christ. Or free from hell due to repenting of their sins and believing on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

For each, the saved and the unsaved there is a final judgment that comes. How does God judge each person, and is he fair and is there a standard by which he judges? Look at verse 17 again.

### ***1 Peter 1:17***

***<sup>17</sup> And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile.***

We get the answer in that verse. God, Jehovah judges impartially. Saved or unsaved will be judged with an equal sense of justice on how they live their lives, according to one’s deeds. When we think of, “deeds”, what

comes to mind? I would say the first thing we think of us is what we do, our actions. But where do most of our deeds and actions originate from? Our mind, which is linked to the condition of our heart or soul!

***Proverbs 23:7***

***<sup>7</sup> For he is like one who is inwardly calculating. “Eat and drink!” he says to you, but his heart is not with you.***

Many of you will know this verse better like this. “As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he!” King James version! This verse is referring to a very deceptive man. He acts one way in front of people but that is not his true heart. He is calculating looking for any advantage that serves his best interests. Eventually he will be found out how conniving his heart is.

Jesus says in Matthew 15:17-19 these words.

***Matthew 15:17-19***

***<sup>17</sup> Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled? <sup>18</sup> But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.***

This is after the Pharisees complained that the disciples didn't wash their hands before they ate. Jesus explains again that it is from the mind, the heart, that gives evidence of whether the person is saved or not. It is the deeds of the heart by which we will be judged.

***(Show Mission T-Shirt) Colossians 3:17 – This is for me to do!***

That brings us to the question again of, “Is there a standard by which we are judged?” We already covered some of that, but yes there is! Turn to John Chapter 12, we will read Jesus' words as documented by the Apostle John.

***John 12:44-50***

***<sup>47</sup> If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. <sup>49</sup> For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. <sup>50</sup> And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.”***

When Jesus came the first time he did not come as judge! Jesus came to save! But there is a time when he will judge everyone. That judgement will be based off of the Word of God that tells us what sin is and what sin is not. What is sin? A simple definition is one that we used with the Good News Club.

Sin is anything we think, say, or do that is contrary to the Word of God. Because God is the Judge of all creation, then we are accountable to him and we will reap the consequences of our sin if we reject his offer of mercy through repentance and faith in that Jesus, being God in the flesh, came to earth to die for our sins to provide salvation for those that will repent and believe.

The verses we just read mentioned that those that reject Jesus and does not receive his words has a judge, the word. So, let us drive down deeper of what is in the word that shows the sin or the deeds we must reject and what we must do to receive forgiveness of those sins.

To dig deeper what should we use to understand what sin is? The very thing that we are going to be judged by. The Word of God, the Bible! I could go to several portions of Scripture, there is Colossians 3:1-17, or 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, and Galatians 5:16-26. I am going to read from Romans Chapter 1 verses 26 to 32.

### ***Romans 1:26-32***

***<sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; <sup>27</sup> and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. <sup>28</sup> And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup> They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.***

There you have it. That is what sin is. There is not a sin mentioned in those verses and the verses I mentioned that we read that has not been a part of every person's life that has walked this earth. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

As I mentioned earlier, this is where that call to holiness comes through the convicting power of the Holy Spirit we realize the depths of our sin and God brings us to the point of brokenness, then we call on the Lord in repentance as we see that great mercy, we talked about back in verse 3 and we are born again as God makes our spirit new through Jesus Christ.

As we read, there are those that will never repent so when it comes to judgment there are two types and there are two outcomes. Those that reject God's word, and his truth will one day be in front of Jesus at what is called the Great White Throne Judgment!

### ***Revelation 20:11-15***

***<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <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.***

In those verses it said that they will be judged according to what they had done. There are those deeds again. The greatest deed that they will be judged upon is what they did with Jesus Christ. As Jesus said in what we read from John 12, that if they reject Jesus and his words a punishment of eternal judgment will be the verdict given to them.

There is also a judgment for believers as well. Now, this judgment is not a judgment of whether we are saved or not but what we did after we were saved.

### ***2 Corinthians 5:8-10***

***<sup>8</sup> Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the***

***judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.***

What is being described here is what is called the Bema seat judgment of the believer. The Greek word for judgment seat is Bema and means platform, a raised place mounted by steps. All the verses of Chapter 5 leading up to verse 8 refers to those that are believers, followers of the Lord Jesus. So, this is not a judgment of condemnation as the Great White Throne judgment is but one to where we receive rewards. But we will be judged upon our deeds.

1 Corinthians Chapter 3 describes this very well.

***1 Corinthians 3:11-15***

***<sup>11</sup> For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— <sup>13</sup> each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. <sup>14</sup> If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.***

What is being judged here or tested is what were our motives behind what we did as believers. What we said, the reason we did anything. Were we seeking to build ourselves up or build up the kingdom of God. So, anything we did that was not done to give glory to the Lord will be burned up. Gone!

Our labor for the Lord should not be one to receive accolades from men but should be done in a manner to where we hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

How are we living? What if right now Jesus was to walk in here tonight and he has a thumb drive with him and went back to the A/V desk and Jesus tells Albert plug this in and play this video. This is a video of Dale’s week. What would we see of my life this past week. What of my service for the Lord would burn, what would remain?

I don’t walk in fear of that because I am still saved but in that salvation my desire is to seek to please the Lord. To know him more and make him more known to the world. May I encourage us in that. If you are saved tonight. Seek to honor the Lord. Seek to make sure of your motives and to remember what Jesus did to pay for our salvation.

That is what Peter’s is seeking to do in the second part of verse 17 and through 21. Peter’s comments are directed to those that are professing to be saved. Peter is telling them that if they are truly saved there is a certain way our lives should look. Also, Peter is encouraging to live boldly in a world that is persecuting them and in need to hear the truth of the Gospel.

***1 Peter 1:17-21***

***<sup>17</sup> And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, <sup>18</sup> knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. <sup>20</sup> He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you <sup>21</sup> who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.***

Peter as he tells these dispersed, exiled followers of Jesus to conduct their lives, he is speaking of lifestyle. Peter is speaking as you live out your life in this present world as you await that completion of your living hope, do so in fear of the Lord. We try to soften this word fear by saying, show reverence, or have a healthy fear of God.

I do believe those do coincide with the fear we should have of God. In that fear of God there will be a humbling of oneself understanding that he is the ultimate judge, remember the words of Jesus in Matthew Chapter 10 of not fearing man that could kill the body but not kill the soul, but fear the one, God, who can destroy the body and soul in Hell for all of eternity.

Peter gives them a reminder and may this be a reminder for all of us. We are sojourners in this world! At the time of our salvation, we now have become foreigners, exiles of this evil world's system and we are now citizens of heaven. We are looking towards a city, with foundations, whose builder is God.

I like the way Peter tells them, "Knowing That"! It is good to be reminded of things that we know! It is kind of like us going through the part of the Gospel of John of Sunday's as we spoke on the arrest, the trials, the flogging, the cross, the death, the resurrection of Jesus.

It is through what Jesus Christ went through that here Peter can say, knowing that you were ransomed, redeemed, there was a payment for your salvation and that was the precious blood of Jesus Christ! Yes, like a lamb without spot and blemish but with much more worth because Jesus was the complete fulfillment of all sacrifices before him. The blood of Jesus that was shed is described as being precious meaning, of great price.

This act of redemption was put into motion before the first sin was ever committed on this earth. Now has become manifest through Jesus Christ for our sake! Jesus received the glory due him as he rose from the dead and ascended to heaven to sit at the place of authority, at the right hand of the father, mission accomplished, death, sin, hell defeated.

Knowing that, knowing that we were ransomed from our futile ways, we conduct our lives in fear towards God, with a desire to honor the name of Jesus, to live holy, being born again into a living hope as we live obediently to the Word of God, now, and as we wait for the completion of our salvation at the return of Jesus Christ!