

## ***“DOCTRINE THAT DANCES”***

STUDIES IN THE MAJOR DOCTRINES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Revelation 20; Matthew 25; 1st Corinthians 3; 2nd Corinthians 5

### **“THREE FUTURE JUDGMENTS: AT WHICH ONE WILL YOU APPEAR?”**

**INTRODUCTION:** The Bible says it is appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgment. (Hebrews 9:27) (John 5:22) However, there seems to be different judgments taught in Scripture, so what judgment is being referenced? Also, what about those people who died and were brought back to life to experience death twice? What exactly does that text mean?

**BACKGROUND:** Many have been have been taught that you cannot know for sure that you are saved until judgment day. I assure you that you can know for sure (1st John 5:11-13) and you should not wait until the “last minute” to make sure you have received the gift of eternal life. (Romans 10:9-10) The passage used to justify that belief about not knowing until then has a context that is often overlooked, so let’s explore that together and see which judgment may apply to you.

#### **I. UNBELIEVERS WILL APPEAR AT THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT. PREPARE TO BE HOPELESS! (Revelation 20:11-15)**

- A. Everyone wants to believe their loved ones are in a better place after death. However, our Lord often warned people about the danger of rejecting the love and grace of God, and the judgment that awaits those that choose to do so.
- B. Unbelievers are resurrected for what is described as the “second death, and will be cast into a Lake of Fire. ”They have been dead (separated from God ) while living because they rejected the Lord, (1st Timothy 5:6) and they will sadly be eternally separated from God because they chose to not worship him.
- C. Eternal torment is individualized based upon the evil works that were done and recorded in the books. (Revelation 20:12) The memories of lost opportunities to have surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus the Christ will also cause torment. (Luke 16:19-31)

#### **II. UNBELIEVERS AND BELIEVERS WHO SURVIVE THE GREAT TRIBULATION WILL APPEAR AT THE JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS. PREPARE TO BE SURPRISED! (Matthew 25:31-44)**

- A. The world will soon endure the worst season of life in human history (even worse than now!) and many lives will be lost during a seven year window of time. You do not want to be here when the Tribulation starts! (Jeremiah 30:7)
- B. This passage (Matthew 25) has been grossly misapplied and used as the background for all people when they appear before God and find out if heaven or hell is their eternal home. The context does not allow for such an interpretation.
- C. Notice the kind of work that was done by those who will enter the Kingdom. It was not done in front of a camera to draw attention to oneself. It was not using the name of Jesus to make someone’s own ministry popular. Love for the Lord was demonstrated by the level of

care and concern for human beings in need. Considering the fact of the antichrist limiting all transactions based upon having voluntarily received a mark that designates loyalty to him, only true believers will risk their lives to care for other believers. (Matthew 25:35-40)

### **III. ONLY BELIEVERS FROM THE CHURCH AGE WILL APPEAR AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT (BEMA) OF CHRIST. PREPARE TO BE EXPOSED! (1st Corinthians 3) (2nd Corinthians 5)**

A. If you do not aim for anything or set goals, you will not be able to measure any progress. A believer should aim to please Christ more than anything else. He is the firm foundation, the Rock on which we stand. No other foundation can be laid alongside that foundation.

B. We are to work out our own salvation, but we cannot work for it. (Philippians 2:12-13) We are co-laborers with Christ, which means there is work to do. Upon finishing our work, we must all appear (be made manifest) at the Judgment Seat of Christ. (Acts 18:12-17)

C. Do not pat yourself on the back too soon for what you think you have done. (1st Corinthians 4:1-5) Only the righteous judge knows all of our motives, and we can easily deceive ourselves. (Jeremiah 17:9-10) ***What has your work, your ministry, cost you?***

D. Our works will be rewarded if they are done with the right motives, and other qualifiers. Wood, hay, and stubble are easy to find and not worth very much. Gold, silver, and precious stones are not found on the surface. Are you willing to do the hard work and go for the gold?

1. What helps us produce good works? Obedience...Faith...Motives...Content... Character...Encouragement.... Holy Spirit Dependence

a. Judge yourself so you will not be judged! (1st Corinthians 11:31)

2. You actually get rewarded for allowing God to do the work through your humanity, just as Jesus demonstrated. "The Father that lives in Me, He does the work" (John 14:10)

E. Our God is called a consuming fire. His eyes are like a flame of fire. Fire purifies metals, comforts those in close proximity, yet destroys those who fall into it. When fires came into contact with dwellings in Corinth, those made of marble and stone survived, while those made of boards and straw were destroyed. "WILL YOUR WORKS PASS JUDGMENT?"

F. The person who escapes a fire with only their life is grateful, yet still grieves the loss of other valuables. Believers will be grateful for salvation, yet many may shed tears over wasted opportunities that can never be regained. "The Day" is a reference to the time when we stand before the Lord. It is coming sooner than you may think.

*Time is better i\_\_\_\_\_ than merely s\_\_\_\_\_.* You only have 24 hours in a day, and part of those hours are used in necessary sleep. Are you investing the other limited hours well? We are often more concerned about a\_\_\_\_\_ than we are e\_\_\_\_\_!.

***OUT OF RESPECT (FEAR, NOT TERROR) FOR GOD WE SHOULD SERVE WITH THE RIGHT MOTIVES AND WARN OTHERS OF THE JUDGMENT THAT IS TO COME.***

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