

## **FOUNDATIONS #8**

### **Resurrection and Judgment**

#### **Review**

We have been studying the 6 foundational doctrines of the Christian faith:

#### **Hebrews 6:1-2**

**Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto maturity; not laying again the foundation of (1) repentance from dead works, and of (2) faith toward God, of (3) the doctrine of baptisms, and of (4) laying on of hands, and of (5) resurrection of the dead, and of (6) eternal judgment.**

#### **A Group of Six**

The 1st 4 foundational doctrines of the Christian faith take place on this earth, in the “time-space continuum”; but the last 2, the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment take place at the end of time as we know it, and will be experienced by every man, woman, and child who has ever lived!

#### **Derek Prince**

**“The examination of these last 2 doctrines leads us into an altogether new realm of study; the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 doctrines are directly related to this present world and to the scene of time. However, these last 2 doctrines take us by the revelation of God’s word out of this present world and beyond the scene of time into a new realm—the realm of eternity. The scenes upon which the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment will be enacted belong not to time, but to eternity.”**

The Bible teaches that at the end of time, every person who has ever lived will be resurrected from the dead, reunited with their physical body, and stand before God in that body to receive eternal judgment from God!

These 2 go together; but let’s begin with a brief look at the doctrine of...

### **I. The Resurrection of the Dead**

#### **A. The Resurrection of Christ is the Centerpiece of the Christian Faith!**

1. The Bible itself declares that the Bible is not true if Jesus did not rise from the dead! See what the Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:

**1 Corinthians 15:12-14**

**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, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ is not risen. And if Christ has not been raised, is not risen, then our preaching is vain and your faith also is in vain.**

a. The entire Christian faith stands or falls on this one point: that Christ is risen from the dead; if that is not true...

**1 Corinthians 15:17**

**If Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless and you are still in your sins.**

b. Then he says that if Christ is not raised, then all who have died believing in Jesus are truly dead and we are all fools.

2. But we are not fools:

**1 Corinthians 15:20-21 NIV**

**But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.**

3. This entire chapter is a comparison and contrast between 2 men: Adam and Jesus Christ. **Paul says that “since death came through a man (Adam), so the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man (Jesus Christ). And what is death?**

a. The Bible teaches that death is not the end of existence; death is the separation of the soul from the body! Adam’s sin brought death into the world so that at the moment of death, the soul and body are separated; but through the righteousness of Christ comes the resurrection where the soul and the body are reunited! So the next verse says...

**1 Corinthians 15:22**

**For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.**

4. In Adam all “die”; experience the separation of the soul from the body. But in Christ, all will experience the reunion of the soul and the body! This is the Christian doctrine of the resurrection of the dead.

5. **And what is the purpose of the resurrection?** God will reunite the souls of all the dead with their bodies for the purpose of **standing** before God for eternal judgment according to the works they had done while in their bodies!

## II. The Doctrine of Eternal Judgment

### A. The Resurrection of the Body is for the Purpose of Eternal Judgment

1. The Bible is very clear on this point: every human being who has ever lived and died will experience the resurrection, where their body is reunited with their spirit, so they will stand before God for eternal judgment.

2. But there are 2 scenes of eternal judgment: Christians will stand before “the judgment seat of Christ”; but non-believers will stand before the “great white throne” of God, described in...

#### **Revelation 20:11-12**

**11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.  
12 And I saw the dead, small and great, *standing* before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.**

a. The resurrection of all who have ever lived will be, other than the creation itself, the greatest display of God’s power ever...

#### **Revelations 20:13**

**The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one *according to his works*.**

3. At the great white throne of eternal judgment, sinners will stand before God in their resurrected bodies to be judged according to their works; and since no one can be saved by their works, no matter how good or how many, they will suffer eternal punishment.

**Revelation 20:14-15**

**Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.**

4. This is what C.S. Lewis called “The Great Divorce”; the eternal separation of saints and sinners; what Jesus referred to in His earthly ministry:

**Matt 25:31-32 NKJV**

**"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.**

**And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.**

a. Notice that at the end of time all of humanity will be divided into 2 groups; there is no 3<sup>rd</sup> “category”: there are the lost and the found; the saints and the aint’s; the sheep on the right hand the goats on the left...

**Matthew 25:34**

**Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.**

b. This is amazing to me: Jesus, while still on earth, is telling us what He will say in heaven on the day of eternal judgement! This is the Lamb of God speaking to the sheep. We could only wish it ended there. But then the Lion of Judah will speak...

**Matthew 25:41**

**Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.**

5. So here’s the picture of what awaits us all:

**Hebrews 9:27**

**And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:**

(When the game is over, the pieces go back in the box!)

- Through the sin Adam, all men must suffer death, which is the separation of the soul from the body; through the power of Christ, all will experience the resurrection, where the soul and body are reunited.
- Then all, in resurrected bodies, will stand before God in judgment
- God will separate the human race into 2 groups; those without Christ will stand before God at the great white throne, and be consigned to eternal separation from God, *in their eternal resurrected bodies*; these bodies will not die again; they will go on forever one place or the other.

6. Now I am fairly confident that most Bible-believing Christians would agree with most of what we've said up to now; but I want to close this final foundation series teaching with some personal thoughts.

7. In my experience I have encountered many Christians who have not seriously considered the foundational doctrine of eternal judgment as it will apply to them personally.

### **III. Christian Resurrection, Judgment and the Fear of the Lord**

#### **A. My Opinion**

1. In my personal opinion, there has been a general lack of foundational teaching on the doctrine of eternal judgment as it applies to Christians.

2. Most churchgoers believe in the resurrection and the final judgment of sinners; but many have never heard about eternal judgment for *believers*; that although we are saved apart from our works we will stand at the judgment seat of Christ where will be judged according to our works!

3. We will not stand before the white throne of God to be condemned; but we there is a judgment seat will stand before what the Apostle Paul twice calls "the judgment seat of Christ"!

#### **2 Corinthians 5:10 (and Romans 14:10) NIV**

**For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.**

4. This is not a judgment unto hell; or condemnation; but it is a judgment "according to our works".

## **B. What the Bible Says About God's Judgment of His People**

1. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, closed out 12 chapters of wisdom in the Book of Ecclesiastes with this:

### **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**

**Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.**

a. We hear very little about the “fear of the Lord” these days. But the fear of the Lord can cause us to keep His commandments; also, knowing God will bring every work and every “secret thing” into judgment!

2. Jesus pulled no punches with His disciples:

### **Matthew 16:24-26**

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

a. Many are familiar with this passage but have overlooked how He connects these words with eternal judgment:

### **Matthew 16:27**

**For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will judge all people according to their deeds.**

b. The same is true with much of the teaching we hear about the rapture or the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming; there's a lot about the coming, little about the *judgment*. But we cannot separate the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming from the judgment of God.

### **Revelation 22:12**

**"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his works.**

c. Jesus is not talking about salvation here because salvation is a gift.

But rewards are earned! Christians are not saved by works; but their works will be judged and “rewarded”. Or not.

3. Let me conclude with a powerful passage of scripture where the Apostle Paul connects our resurrection with Christian judgment. He compares our earthly body to a tent but to our resurrected bodies as “a building from God”!

### **C. Resurrection and Judgement for Christians**

#### **2 Corinthians 5:1-5**

**1 For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.**

1. For now we are all living in an earthly body, which Paul calls our “earthly house”. We “groan” because is weak, subject to aging and decay.

2. But this “earthly house” is temporary! Paul calls it a “tent”! Not to be compared with our resurrection body, which Paul says is a “building from God, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens”!

3. God has prepared our early body to be “swallowed up” by our immortal body; and He has given us the Holy Spirit as a “guarantee”; the Greek term here literally means “earnest money” or “down payment” on the resurrection body!  
Wow.

#### **4. Then in vv.6-8:**

**6 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. 7 For we walk by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.**

a. We are willing to die because we will be in the immediate presence of the Lord! But our resurrection is unto judgment...

## **2 Corinthians 5:9-11 NKJV**

**9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 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. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...**

### **D. Conclusion of the Series: Tying it all Together**

1. The Christian life is a construction site; the foundation is critical.
2. We begin with repentance from dead works and faith toward God; but we will end with the resurrection of the body and eternal judgment. Therefore:
  - We must make it our aim in life to be pleasing to the Lord (v.9) Why?
  - V.10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Why?
  - “That we may each one receive the things done in the body, according to what we have done, whether good or bad...” And what is the result?
  - V.11 Knowing therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men
3. Oh how we need a big dose of the “fear of the Lord” in our nation; and in the church!
4. We will all face resurrection and judgment! So how should we live?

## **ALTAR CALL AND PRAYER**

### **Additional Scriptures**

What is God’s word to the young people?

## **Ecclesiastes 11:9-10**

**9 Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; but know that for all these God will bring you into judgment.**  
**10 Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth are vanity.**

Repentance is always in order!



**Acts 17:30-33 NKJV**

**Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."  
32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter."**

Will you be inside or outside the City of God?

**Revelation 22:14-15**

**Blessed are those who do His commandments that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.**