

## November 22nd – A Stricter Judgment

*“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”*  
(James 3:1)

I was first introduced to this verse while I was pursuing my Masters degree at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. My professor, Dr. Greg Lawson, shared this verse with our class as something of a warning. Until I read this verse, I never knew that preachers and teachers of the Word would be held to a higher standard. But once I read the verse, it made perfect sense. If we’re going to be teaching the Word, we should have a greater understanding of what it says.

The Bible says a great deal about the judgment that is reserved for all mankind at the end of time. Heb. 9:27 says, “It is appointed to man once to die, and after that the judgment.” In 2 Cor. 5:10, the Apostle Paul says, “We must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” Every person will stand before Jesus Christ in judgment at the end of this life. Some people have asked me, “Even Christians have to stand in judgment?” The answer is yes – every person will stand before Jesus.

When we stand before Christ, there’s one thing that will matter more than anything else – did we receive the free pardon of sin that comes through faith in Jesus Christ? Has His precious blood covered our sins? If the answer is no, we will be eternally separated from God’s grace and mercy. If the answer is yes, He will usher us into heaven. But for all the teachers among us, we will also give an account for how we led God’s people. So then teachers, let us be sure to “rightly divide the Word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15) and do what it says!