

# *Eternal Judgment (Part 1)*

*Heb 6:1-3 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, (2) of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. (3) And this we will do if God permits.*

The common thread that connects all the principles of the doctrine of Christ is that they are focused on the salvation of an individual, from the moment he or she is born again to eternity. If you have ever studied Hebrews 6:1-3, you would have surmised this. First, *repentance from dead works* is required and necessary, followed by exercising *faith toward God* (faith in Jesus Christ), *baptisms* (which includes water baptism in Jesus' name and baptism in the Spirit), and the *laying on of hands*. The first four principles of the doctrine of Christ show us how to become born again, that we may see and enter the kingdom of God (John 3:1-8). The last two principles are the only possible outcomes of mankind, whether they were born again or not, the *resurrection of the dead* or eternal judgment.

The final principle of the doctrine of Christ is eternal judgment. The *Resurrection of the Dead* and Eternal Judgment contrast one another. The *Resurrection of the Dead* has to do with the reward of the righteous. The resurrection of the just are those who will spend eternity in glory with Jesus, clothed in their new spiritual bodies, in whom the second death will have no power. These are the manifest sons of God (Rom. 8:19).

In contrast, the doctrine of eternal judgment has to do with the reward of the unrighteous. The resurrection of the unjust are those who will spend eternity in torment in the lake of fire with the devil and all his minions.

Let's now address some categories that represent the unrighteous.

## Do Not Obey the Gospel

Who are the unjust? Do the scriptures declare their identity to us?

*1Pe 4:17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who **do not obey the gospel of God?***

*2Th 1:8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who **do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

From these two scriptures we see that judgment will first begin in the house of God. This is not a new occurrence, but a continuance of how the Lord deals in judgment. He always deals with His house first.

## Shepherds

*Eze 34:1-10 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, (2) "Son of man, **prophecy against the shepherds of Israel, prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? (3) You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. (4) The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them. (5) So they were scattered because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. (6) My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them." (7) 'Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: (8) "As I live," says the Lord GOD, "surely because My flock became a prey, and My flock became food for every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, nor did My shepherds search for My flock, but the shepherds fed themselves and did not feed My flock"— (9) therefore, O shepherds, hear the word of the LORD! (10) Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require My flock at their hand; I will cause them to cease feeding the sheep, and the shepherds shall feed themselves no more; for I will deliver My flock from their mouths, that they may no longer be food for them."***

Using this one example, if the Lord deals severely with His own "shepherds of Israel" then how much sorer punishment will there be or what end will there be for those who do not know God and DO NOT OBEY the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ?

First and foremost, the unjust are those who reject the gospel of the kingdom and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## The Body works together with Jesus

Jesus made us a part of the salvation process by having us proclaim the gospel of His kingdom. And the following excerpts are examples of how we become involved in that:

*Mat 10:5-8 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into*

*the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. (6) But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (7) And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' (8) Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.*

Jesus sent out the twelve to cities he was coming to, but he sent these forerunners to prepare the way for Him. Like John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus, so are the sent disciples a type of forerunners of Jesus' coming. In declaring the gospel of the kingdom today, we are now the first point of contact between the world and Jesus.

*Mat 10:11-16 "Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. (12) And when you go into a household, greet it. (13) **If the household is worthy**, let your peace come upon it. **But if it is not worthy**, let your peace return to you. (14) And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. (15) Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city! (16) "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*

What does it mean to be worthy? The disciples were supposed to go into a city and inquire to find out if it was "worthy". In the context of these Scriptures, what made a household worthy is if they received the messengers and the gospel that they preached. If the house was worthy the peace of God would rest on that household.

If the house was unworthy (meaning they didn't receive the disciples or their words) then the peace of God that rested on them remained with them. They were to dust off their feet (the dust of unbelief) and move on.

*1Sa 8:7b ...for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.*

*Mar 9:37 "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."*

*Mat 10:40 "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."*

Without controversy, He says if those who hear your words do not receive you or your words, they not only have rejected you as a person, they have rejected Christ Himself and God who sent Him.

*Mat 11:20-24 Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: (21) "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. (22) But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. (23) And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. (24) But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."*

Notice in Matthew 10, Jesus sent out the 12 before Him to go preach into the cities he was going to go to. In Matthew 11, He Himself then went to those cities and healed the sick, cleansing them of their diseases & infirmities and delivering them from the oppression of demons, but the cities DID NOT RECEIVE Him.

Jesus said that the works that I do testify of me (John 5:36). He pleaded with them, "If you don't believe me, at least believe the works because they can only be done by God", but they still would not believe Him.

Even after all the miracles, signs and wonders that were accomplished in their city, they still would not repent and believe. Jesus then speaks of the woes of their decision. If Jesus would have gone to Sodom and worked those miracles, Sodom would have repented and believed.

First, He sent the gospel through His disciples in preparation of His coming. Then He came Himself, in miracles, signs and wonders and just as they rejected the messengers and the gospel (the forerunner), they also rejected Him. Their judgment is made sure because they would not believe and receive the messengers and the gospel sent unto them, nor Jesus Christ Himself.

## **Pharisaical**

The "shepherds of Israel" in the Old Covenant evolved over time into the Pharisees of Jesus' day. Jesus had much to say concerning the Pharisees on many occasions.

*Mat 7:1-2 "Judge not, that you be not judged. (2) For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.*

This is a spiritual law - if you judge (condemn) someone, you will be judged (condemned) – in the measure that you judge (condemn) that person you will receive the same measure of judgment (condemnation). In other words, as much mercilessness that you show towards someone, you will be shown the same amount of mercilessness.

The Pharisees put themselves in the seat of Moses, judging people according to their law, and did not realize that the same judgment & condemnation they were bringing upon others, would be the same judgment & condemnation that they would end up receiving.

*Mat 23:2-4 saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. (3) Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. (4) For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.*

Jesus advised us to do as the Pharisees say, but not as they do.

*Mat 23:13-15 "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. (14) Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. (15) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.*

Jesus called them hypocrites because they did not enter into the kingdom of heaven, and would not allow others to enter in as well. Always putting on a show with long winded prayers. When they win someone to their cause or click or movement, they make him twice as much a son of hell. Since they were the shepherds over God's flock, they would receive greater damnation for their office held even greater responsibility.

*Mat 23:23-28 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. (24) Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! (25) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. (26) Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. (27) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. (28) Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.*

Pharisees neglected the weightier matters of the law, such as (justice) righteous or just judgment, mercy and faith, but they were always quick to focus on the retrieval of money from the people. They made sure that they looked good on the outside, but within themselves, they were full of dead men's bones, unclean, full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

*Mat 23:33-36 **Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?** (34) Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, (35) that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. (36) Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.*

To be clear, and to be sure, Pharisees were as serpents and destined to the damnation of hell. They were just as their father was, the serpent in the garden of Eden. John 8:44 **“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.”**

Paul speaks more of this because after the DBR, this spirit continued manifesting itself.

*Rom 2:1-9 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. (2) But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. (3) And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? (4) Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? (5) But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God. (6) **who "WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS":** (7) eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; (8) but to those who are **self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness**—indignation and wrath, (9) tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man **who does evil**, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;*

Paul spoke of those who judge/condemn others, condemn themselves for they are just as guilty of the same as those whom they judge. How can they escape the judgment of God? God will in the day of judgment render everyone according to his deeds. The just will obtain glory, honour, immortality and eternal life at the resurrection of the dead. The unjust, who did not obey the truth, will have indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish - first to the Jew and then to the Gentile.

Don't be like a Pharisee or take on a Pharisaical spirit.

## Unforgiveness

Jesus made this declaration in the early account of Matthew.

*Mat 6:14-15 "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (15) But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

As much as we might hate to admit it, unforgiveness may end up being the number one sin that holds the Lord's people back from coming into the kingdom of God. It is quite clear and evident, by Jesus' own admission, that if you do not forgive others of their transgressions against you, He will not forgive your trespasses against Him. This is a conditional promise and not many who call themselves Christians like to acknowledge that the promises of God, the blessings and the curses, are all **CONDITIONAL**. The Lord sets a standard in His word and depending on YOU, and what YOU decide, will determine the consequences and repercussions of your decision.

Jesus, later in his ministry in Matthew's account, comes back to this very principle of forgiveness and uses a parable to highlight its impact on our lives. He said, "The kingdom of God is like this..."

*Mat 18:23-35 Therefore **the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. (24) And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. (25) But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. (26) The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' (27) Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.***

Context of the day: \$5,220,000,000.00 - 5 billion 220 million dollars today! It's unreachable and unfathomable.

*(28) "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' (29) So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' (30) And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt.*

*(31) So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. (32) Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. (33) Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' (34) And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. (35) "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."*

There should be no question what the Lord will do to His own if they should not forgive others. Jesus said, "My heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses." If you forgive others, our heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you decide not to forgive others, holding on to that grudge and longing for vengeance or ill will toward the offending party, He will in turn not forgive you. You will be delivered to the tormentors

till you pay all that is due. What many do not consider is that the payment that is due is un-payable. The debt is too great, therefore the torment will be for eternity.

3 Main Categories of the Unrighteous – those that do NOT OBEY the gospel, those who walk in a Pharisaical spirit, and those who walk in unforgiveness.

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