

Thriving in the Midst of “Big Trouble”

Preparing for Eternal Judgment

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: July 31, 2022



The assignment for God’s people in all the earth is to be an overcomer, and we want to be able to flourish during times of trouble. Now, the foundation of our lives is Jesus of Nazareth—the Chief Cornerstone and our Savior—and we need to know Him in a personal way and submit to Him as Lord of our entire lives. That is the definition of a Christ-follower. Then, we need to go on to mature as His followers, and there are foundational things Scripture reveals to help God’s people grow up in Christ and be prepared for His return. This session speaks to us regarding God’s eternal judgment and how to live our lives in such a way that when we see the Judge of All the Earth, His judgement will be for us ...

Hebrews 6:1-3 ¹ *Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,* ² *instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and **eternal judgment.*** ³ *And God permitting, we will do so.*

I. THE JUDGMENT OF GOD

A. Judge of All

Genesis 18:25 *“Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! **Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?**”*

B. Entrusted to Jesus

John 5:22–23 ²² *Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,* ²³ *that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.*

C. Two Main Ways in Which God Brings Judgment

- 1) In History
- 2) Eternal Judgment – When We Step Out of Time into Eternity

Exodus 20:4–6 ⁴ *“You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.* ⁵ *You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,* ⁶ *but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.”*

Jeremiah 32:18 *You show love to thousands but bring the punishment for the fathers’ sins into the laps of their children after them. O great and powerful God, whose name is the Lord Almighty ...*

Psalms 103:17–18 ¹⁷ *But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord’s love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children’s children—* ¹⁸ *with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts.*

1. In what ways have you seen the choices of previous generations impact our lives today, whether good or bad?
2. If you were to evaluate your choices today, what impact would they have on the generations to come?
3. What are some examples of modern-day idols? Which one(s) do you struggle with the most?

II. SCENES OF JUDGMENT

A. Judgment Seat of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear (be made manifest) 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.*

1 Peter 1:17 *Since you call on a Father who judges each man’s work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.*

1 Peter 4:17–18 ¹⁷ *For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?* ¹⁸ *And, “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”*

Romans 14:10–13 ¹⁰ *You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat.* ¹¹ *It is written: “‘As surely as I live,’ says the Lord, ‘every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.’”* ¹² *So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.* ¹³ *Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way.*

Main Features of This Judgment

- Each One Will Answer for Himself
- Only Two Categories: Good or Bad
- Not for Condemnation: For Test of Service

John 3:18 *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.*

John 5:24 *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*

Romans 8:1 *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus ...*

1 Corinthians 3:11–15 ¹¹ *For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test **the quality of each man's work.** ¹⁴ If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.*

Matthew 7:21–23 ²¹ *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"*

B. Judgment of Israel

John 4:22 *"You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews."*

C. Judgment Before the Great White Throne

Revelation 20:11–15 ¹¹ *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

4. What are some foundations you seek to build your life on? Do they align more with our current world or eternity?
5. In your day-to-day activities, where do you have the hardest time standing for the Lord?
6. Who in your sphere of influence is an unbeliever? How can you begin to intentionally open lines of communication with them in order to share God's truth? Pray for these people together as a group.
7. What choices are you making today that you believe will change your opportunities in eternity?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, in Your great love for us, You still convict us, call and invite us, and open doors before us. I come before You in humility to acknowledge my own sins, distractions, willful stubbornness, and refusal to accept the Lordship of Jesus. Forgive me for those times I have chosen against You. I come today to say I am sorry. Forgive me for when I have pointed fingers at others and was not addressing the challenges in my own heart. I ask for Your mercy. Lord, I want to walk a new way, and I proclaim that through the blood of Jesus, I am redeemed out of the hand of the Devil. Through the blood of Jesus, all my sins are forgiven. Through the blood of Jesus, I am justified, made righteous—just-as-if-I-had-never-sinned. Through the blood of Jesus, I am sanctified—made holy, set apart to God. My body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, redeemed and cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Therefore, Satan has no place in me and no power over me through the blood of Jesus. Thank You I can go forth with a new assignment, a new boldness, and a new authority. In Jesus' name, amen.