

MASTER OUTLINE NUMBER EIGHTEEN

The Judgments

In the Scriptures, we are instructed to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15). This is most essential when studying the judgments. Do not endeavor to make all the judgments conform to the theory of one "general judgment." The "general judgment" theory is the invention of early medieval religion and is not taught in the Word of God. .

There are at least five separate judgments revealed in the Bible, and they differ as to time, place, and purpose. Yet, they all have one thing in common: the Lord Jesus Christ is the Judge (John 5:22).

Everyone, from Adam to the last man to be born on this earth, will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ to be judged. In the first judgment, the sins of the believer have already been judged in Christ on the cross. In the second judgment, the believer is to judge self or be judged and disciplined by the Lord Jesus Christ. In the third judgment, all believers must appear at the "judgment seat of Christ" (2 Cor. 5:10) where their works are to be judged. In the fourth judgment, all nations are to be judged at the second coming of Christ. In the fifth judgment, the wicked dead are to be judged at the Great White Throne.

18-A. The Judgment of the Believer's Sins (John 5:24)

18-B. The Judgment of the Believer's Self (1 Corinthians 11:31, 32)

18-C. The Judgment of the Believer's Works (2 Corinthians 5:10)

18-D. The Judgment of the Nations (Matthew 25:31-46)

18-E. The Judgment of the Wicked (Revelation 20:11-15)

Life and Judgment Are Through the Son

18-A. The Judgment of the Believer's Sins

24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. John 3:16, 18; 6:47 • [1 John 3:14]

18-A. The Judgment of the Believer's Sins (John 5:24)-In the above verse, our Lord tells us that a believer "shall not come into judgment." Our sins were judged in Christ on Calvary, and every believer "has passed from death into life"

(v. 24). This is present salvation. Christ paid for our sins. He was judged in the believer's stead. The believer will not come into judgment because

(1) Jesus Christ paid the penalty. On the grounds of His substitutionary death, the believer is separated from his sins forever (Ps. 103:12).

(2) The sins of the believer have been blotted out, and God has promised that He "will not remember your sins" (Is. 43:25).

(3) Our Lord suffered for our sins, "the just for the unjust," that we might be saved and never come into judgment as sinners (1 Pet. 3:18).

(4) The believer will never be condemned with the world, because Christ was condemned in his place. "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us" (2 Cor. 5:21). Christ was made a curse for us on the cross, and "has redeemed us from the curse of the law" (Gal. 3:13). "He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" (Heb. 9:26). The believer will not come into judgment, because his sins have been purged (Heb. 1:3).

See 1 Corinthians 11:31, 32 for **Point 18-B: The Judgment of the Believer's Self.**

18-B. The Judgment of the Believer's Self

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. (1 John 1:9)

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. Ps. 94:12

18-B. The Judgment of the Believer's Self (1 Corinthians 11:31, 32)-The believer's self-judgment means more than judging things in the believer's life. When the believer judges his life, the good and the bad in his life come to light; he confesses the bad (1 John 1:9) and forsakes it (Is. 55:7). However, it is not enough just to judge sin in the believer; he must judge self.

(1) To judge self is to practice self-abnegation; for when the believer sees self as God sees him, he will renounce self. It is replacing the self-life with the Christ-life (Col. 3:4). Christ is the believer's life.

(2) To judge self is to deny self. This is more than self-denial. Self-denial is denying one's self of fleshly gratifications. If we practice self-denial only, it is treating the symptom and not the illness. But when we deny self, we are attacking the root problem, for in self (i.e., in the flesh) "nothing good dwells" (Rom. 7:18). To deny self is to take up our cross and follow Christ (Mark 8:34-38), to lose the self-life, and find the Christ-life (Gal. 2:20).

(3) To judge self is to become less and less self-conscious, and more and more Christ-conscious (Matt. 28:20).

(4) To judge self is to become Christ-controlled (Acts 9:6).

(5) To judge self is to esteem others better than self (Phil. 2:3), to become selfless.

See 2 Corinthians 5:10 for **Point 18-C: The Judgment of the Believer's Works.**

18-C. The Judgment of the Believer's Works

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 Rom. 2:16; 14:10, 12 • Gal. 6:7; Eph. 6:8

18-C. The Judgment of the Believer's Works (2 Corinthians 5:10)-The believer's works will be judged at the "judgment seat of Christ" (v. 10). The term "judgment seat of Christ" is found only twice in the Bible, but it is referred to many times. It is found in the above verse, and also in Romans 14:10). A careful reading of both verses in context reveals that only believers will appear at the judgment seat of Christ. Their works will be judged, not their sins; for we have already seen that the sins of the believer were judged in Christ on Calvary, and "there is therefore now no condemnation [judgment] to those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1).

(1) This judgment will take place "in the air" following the first resurrection. "And the dead in Christ will rise first" (1 Thess. 4:14-18). After the resurrection of the saved, a thousand years will pass before the resurrection of the unsaved (Rev. 20:4, 5), and so there will be a thousand years between the judgment seat of Christ, where only saved will appear, and the judgment at the Great White Throne (Rev. 20:11), where only unsaved will appear.

(2) At the judgment seat of Christ, the believer will give an account of himself to God. Therefore, we should look at our own works, and not judge the works of others (Rom. 14:10-13).

(3) It is a most humbling thought to know that someday the believer will face *all* his works-good or bad. Some believers will be ashamed (1 John 2:28,) and "suffer loss"-not the loss of salvation, but the loss of rewards (1 Cor. 3:11-15). So whatever you do, do it to the glory of God (Col. 3:17).

See Matthew 25:31--46 for **Point 18-D: The Judgment of the Nations**.

The Son of Man Will Judge the Nations

18-D. The Judgment of the Nations

31 "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.

32 "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. [2 Cor. 5:10] • Ezek. 20:38

33 "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. [John 10:11, 27, 28]

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: [Rom. 8:17]

35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; Is. 58:7

36 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' [James 2:15, 16] • 2 Tim. 1:16

37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?

38 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?

39 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'

40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, "inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Mark 9:41

41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:' Matt. 7:23 • Matt. 13:40, 42 • [2 Pet. 2:4]

42 'for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

43 'I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

44 "Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?'

45 "Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' Prov. 14:31

46 "And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." [Dan. 12:2]

18-D. The Judgment of the Nations (Matthew 25:31-46)-This judgment is not that of the Great White Throne (Rev. 20:11-15). A careful comparison of the two judgments will establish the following facts:

(1) The judgment of the nations will take place "when the Son of Man comes in His glory ... [and] then He will sit on the throne of His glory" (v. 31). The Great White Throne is never called "the throne of His glory."

(2) At this judgment, He will judge the living nations (Joel 3:11-16). At the Great White Throne, He will judge the wicked dead.

(3) At this judgment, there will be no resurrection of the dead. At the Great White Throne, all the wicked dead are raised: "the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them" (Rev. 20:13).

(4) At this judgment, the judge is specifically Christ "the King" (v. 34) judging the nations in His earthly kingdom. At the Great White Throne, the kingdom is no longer in view-indeed, the earth itself has "fled away" (Rev. 20:11).

(5) At this judgment, no books will be opened. At the Great White Throne, there will be books opened (Rev. 20:12).

(6) At this judgment, there are three classes judged:

(a) "Sheep"-the saved (v. 33; Rev. 7:9-17).

(b) "Goats"-the unsaved (v. 33; 2 Thess. 1:7-10).

(c) "Brethren"-the elect of Israel (v. 40; Rev. 7:1-8; Rom. 11:25-28). At the Great White Throne, there is only one class, "the dead" (Rev. 20:12).

(7) At this judgment, the King will give the kingdom to those who have eternal life. At the Great White Throne, there will be no saved and no kingdom; all those judged will be "cast into the lake of fire" (Rev. 20:15).

See Revelation 20:11-15 for **Point 18-E: The Judgment of the Wicked**.

The Great White Throne Judgment

18-E. The Judgment of the Wicked

1 1 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. 2 Pet. 3:7 • Dan. 2:35

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. 20:12 NU, M the throne

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. Rev. 2:23

14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 20:14 NU, M death, the lake of fire

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

18-E. The Judgment of the Wicked (Revelation 20:11-15)-The Great White Throne judgment will follow the thousand-year reign of Christ. This is the final judgment, and only the wicked dead are to be judged. According to Revelation 20:5 (above), believers were resurrected a thousand years before this judgment, and their works were judged at the "judgment seat of Christ" (2 Cor. 5:10).

(1) At this judgment the wicked dead will seek a hiding place from the face of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Judge. But there is no hiding place.

(2) At this judgment the "dead, small and great" (v. 12), will stand before God. But the greatness of the great

will be of no value. "There is none who does good, no, not one" (Rom. 3:12).

(3) At this judgment the "Book of Life" (v. 12) will be opened to show conclusively that these people are not in the Lamb's Book of Life.

(4) At this judgment the dead will be judged "each one according to his works" (v. 13). God is a just God, and since there are degrees of punishment in hell, some will be punished more than others (Luke 12:42-48).

(5) At this judgment there will be no acquittal, **no** higher court to which the lost may appeal. They are lost, and lost forever; they are damned to all eternity, without hope. In hell there is no hope, no sympathy, no love. Even the love of God does not extend into the portals of hell.