

JUDGMENT DAY

1. Everyone will stand before God's Judgment

- a. Death and Judgment are a fact of life for everyone (Heb. 6:1-2; 9:27)
- b. Even Christians must take a turn before God's Judgment seat (Rom. 14:9-12)

2. Christians have nothing to fear from the Judgment proceedings

- a. No charges will be brought against those who have been saved by faith in Christ (Rom. 8:31-34)
- b. Any sins we acknowledge at the Judgment will still remain forgiven through Christ

3. God's Judgment will focus upon our deeds

- a. How we have treated others (Matt. 25:31-46)
- b. Every word we have said (Matt. 12:36-37)
- c. All deeds good and bad (Eccl. 12:13-14; 2 Cor. 5:10)
- d. We are saved by faith, but judged by works

4. By examining our deeds God will show us our faith

- a. Our deeds will serve as objective evidence of our faith or lack of faith (1 Cor. 4:3-5)
 - 1) A heart filled with **faith** will try to do what God wants (John 14:15, 23-24; Jas. 2:14-26)
 - 2) A heart filled with **repentance** will deal honestly with the wrong we do (1 Kgs. 8:47-48; Matt. 3:8)
 - 3) A life changed by Christ will not be perfect, but will show evidence of change and growth

- b. God could choose to only mention the good deeds of the saints, but that would not be an accurate representation of our lives
- c. God could choose to only mention in general terms that we are forgiven sinners, which would be accurate and gracious
- d. God could choose to name our misdeeds and the response we made (the fruit of repentance) in order to demonstrate our faith and growth
- e. In any event, if we have been forgiven, the **guilt** of our sins will be forgotten and buried (Micah 7:19)

5. God made his Judgment decisions before creation

- a. Because he knew in advance (foreknowledge) what we would do (1 Pet. 1:1-2)
- b. Thus he has already written the names in "The Lamb's Book of Life" (Rev. 17:8; 20:11-15)
- c. We will know God's decision before Judgment Day begins
 - 1) By our place in **hades** (Luke 16:22-23)
 - 2) By our rising to meet Jesus in the air (1 Thess. 4:16-17)
 - 3) By our place with the sheep and goats (Matt. 25:31-33)

6. Judgment Day is the time for God to explain why

- a. He will show that he is just when he sends the lost to hell (Rom. 1:18-21; Col. 3:25)
- b. He will show that he is gracious when he sends the saints to heaven (Jude 20-21, 24)