

Are You Ready for Thorough judgment? Romans 8:1-1

Few people give much thought to the Judgment. They put off thinking about what could be a fearsome encounter with the Lord. We'll be responsible for a lifetime of choices. On that day, every person will give an accounting of his or her actions and use of brains.

Jesus warned us about our speech: "But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned," *Matthew 12:36,37 NASB*. Think of having all of your secrets revealed. God knows every unkind word, every lustful thought, all hateful-vengeful contemplation, and evil deed. There'll be embarrassment a plenty.

Jesus counseled us also about how to handle offenses against us. In this gossip-driven world, those who follow Jesus' directive are rarer than five-footed elephants. Here's what Jesus instructed:

If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven, *Matthew 18: 15-18*.

God's people familiarize themselves with all of Jesus' teaching and earnestly try to please him. Wouldn't it be wonderful to stand before the Lord in the Judgment and to have him say, "I find no basis for condemning you"? To have him smile and declare, "Welcome."

Other than Jesus, no one has lived a sin-free life. All of us have done foolish things. But if we are in Christ and attempting to please him, all of our failures will be covered by him; our record expunged. There is "no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

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No sign-in required. Bob does not ask for or want contributions.

