

Key Appointment / Day of Judgment



Jesus is the one appointed by God to judge the living and the dead. - Acts 10:32

Why does God choose Jesus to judge the world and not himself?

- Since man had sinned, it is comforting to know that God will let Jesus judge us because he lived as a man, albeit the God/man. He is able to sympathize with our weaknesses because He was also tempted, but he was totally victorious over all sin. He knows the heart of man and will be righteous in His judgment - Isaiah 11:3-4, Matthew 12:25, Mark 2:8, Hebrews 4:15, Luke 5:22, John 2:24, John 5:30.

'If only there were someone to arbitrate between us, to lay his hand upon us both.' Job 9:33 (Jesus could, as he related to man and God)

'God has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed.' - Acts 17:31

'The Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, 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.' - John 5:22-23

The Father has given Jesus authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out - those who have done **good will rise to live** and those who have done **evil will rise to be condemned.** - John 5:28-29

We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one receive

What is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.
2 Corinthians 5:10

Why is eternal judgment one of the foundation teachings of the Christian faith?

- God wants a new Christian to know that they will have to give account of their motives, words and actions at the final judgment. Ultimate rewards and losses will be decided.
- God's judgment will be final, fixed and irreversible. This is why we are to fear God with the utmost reverence. - Luke 12:4-5, 2 Corinthians 5:11
- Repentance is the first foundation teaching for a reason; it is good preparation for the day when we will meet Jesus face to face . (see our Kingdom Kindergarten message in the Kingdom Intro section for details)

'In the past God has overlooked such ignorance (having idols), but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, for he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. - Acts 17:30-31

In his first words to the religious leaders, John the Baptist spoke of '**the coming wrath**'. He refers to people as trees and says that trees without good fruit will be thrown into the fire. He proclaims that Jesus will gather the wheat into the barn and burn up the chaff with **unquenchable fire**. - Matthew 3:7,10-12. This is kindergarten teaching but it is not often spoken about in the church. I do not want to be guilty of spiritual malpractice, so here goes!

We have titled this message....the key appointment. All of us have appointments that we missed, but there is one appointment everyone will keep. Jesus has set it up for us, when we will have to **give account** of our life in front of Him. **Eternal judgment** is an elementary lesson in God's school of the kingdom according to Hebrews 6:1-2. Jesus often spoke on this topic in his ministry. It reflected his concern for the ultimate destiny of each person that he met. He knew they would have to give account one day for their choices in this life.....and **He would be their judge!** This is why Jesus implored people '**to repent**' from their sins and turn to him. If they would repent now, they would have a better judgment later, otherwise they would have to face the consequences.

Judgment: to separate, to make a distinction between, to call to account.

Jesus will separate the wheat from the chaff, the sheep from the goats, useful works from useless works. The word **eternal** refers to the ultimate nature of these judgments. They have fixed, permanent, and eternal consequences.

The Key Judgment.....What did you do with Jesus Christ, reject Him or receive Him?
Believe in Him enough to trust and follow Him?

"To all who **received** Him, to those who **believed** in His name, He gave the right to become children of God..." - John 1:12 NIV

"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 3:18 NIV

"Whoever **believes** (present continuous tense) in the Son has eternal life, but whoever **rejects** the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains

on him." - John 3:36 NIV

And he who **believes on** - has faith in, clings to, relies on - the Son has (now possesses) eternal life. But whoever **disobeys** - is unbelieving toward, refuses to trust in, disregards, is not subject to - the Son, will never see (experience) life. But instead the **wrath of God** abides on him - God's displeasure remains on him; his indignation hangs over him continually. [Habakkuk 2:4] - John 3:36 Amplified Version

The word 'believe' in the Bible refers to faith that causes one to 'trust and obey'. The belief results in a change in action. It is not a mere mental assent but a relational experience produced from a change of heart. This is why Jesus refers to those who claim to have done many mighty things in his name, but he says to them....."I never knew you" - Matt. 7:21-23.

"If you don't know where you're going, you might wind up someplace else."
- Yogi Berra (Hall of Fame Baseball player known for his wit.)

Jesus addresses the lukewarm condition of the church at Laodicea. He is about to spit them out of his mouth. - Revelation 3:16. The lukewarm are **unaware** of their needy condition as it can be a gradual '**drifting**' away from God. However, Jesus says these things out of love and the desire for them to respond to his rebuke and discipline. He stands at the door and knocks because he wants to spend times of fellowship with them. Revelation 3:19-20. Jesus had to rebuke his disciples for their lack of faith after his resurrection - Mark 16:14. However, right at the time of his ascension he lifted up his hands and blessed them! This brought a spirit of worship, joy and praise upon his disciples. - Luke 24:50-53.

Jesus reveals something quite surprising which is different from the teachings that we normally hear about the end times. It is a parable about the wheat and the tares (weeds). The harvest is the end of the age and the harvesters are the angels.

"Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: **First collect the weeds** and tie them in bundles to be burned, then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn." - Jesus / Matthew 13:30

God weeds out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil, then the **righteous will shine** like the Son in the kingdom of their Father. - Matthew 13:41-43

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, he gives clear indication in the beatitudes that **persecution** is part of the Christian's experience. Throughout the book of Revelation, the saints are encouraged to be overcomers and to endure to the end. Life in the kingdom of God includes resistance by the forces of darkness. Paul had words of comfort for the church in Thessalonica which can be relevant to the last days church.

"Among God's churches we boast about your **perseverance and faith** in all the **persecutions** and trials you are **enduring**. All this is evidence that **God's judgment is right**, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are **suffering**. God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is **revealed** from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power **on the**

day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you because you believed our testimony to you. With this in mind, we **constantly pray** for you, that our God may **count you worthy of his calling**, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith." 2 Thessalonians 1:4-11

John the Apostle wrote words of comfort to the church in every generation:

"I John, your brother and companion in the **suffering** and kingdom and **patient endurance** that are ours in Jesus."
-Revelation 1:9

Jesus promises to be with us to the end of the age. The term 'end of the age' in the Greek language means: "to the very end of the age". Jesus commanded us to **make disciples** of all ethnic groups until he returns. We are to teach them to obey everything he taught his disciples'. We are to occupy (do the king's business) until he returns. We will not change the Muslim world with bullets and bombs (that is their carnal tactic). We overcome evil with the good. It will take the supernatural power of God through His Word, His Spirit and His people. It is a battle for minds. The terrorists have fallen for the greatest of deceptions.....that they can attain paradise by murdering people. We can face their last days madness only through Jesus....the one who has promised to always be with us.

"....I am with you all the days, - perpetually, uniformly and on every occasion - to the [very] close and consummation of the age."
- Matthew 28:20 Amplified version

Jesus will be with us invisibly until we see him visibly at the very end of the age.

God has said: **"Never, never, never** will I leave you;
never, never, never will I forsake you."
Hebrews 13:5 (literal Greek)

**"So we say with confidence, The Lord is my
helper; I will not be afraid. What can man
do to me?" - Hebrews 13:6 NIV**

* Theologians have different views on the end times and Jesus' return, just remember this..... **Our salvation is not based on what we think about His second coming
but what we think about His first coming.**

Jesus bore the wrath of God at the cross so believers will not experience his wrath in the final judgment. - 1 Thessalonians 1:10. Until then, we will face the animosity of the antichrist spirit.

".....you will be **hated by all nations** because of me." - Jesus / Matthew 24:9

Prayer: God, count us worthy of your calling and may we fulfill our purpose in you by your power and the faith that you give us.

THE SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court is not 9 black robed justices in Washington D.C. Their judgment is not to be relied upon for perfect justice. The real Supreme Court is presided over by the Holy Trinity. The judge wears a white robe. His name is Jesus. One could never find anyone

more suited for such an important task. Jesus is not only God, He also lived on this earth as a man.....a PERFECT MAN.

"God has appointed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom he has ordained." - Acts 17:31 NKJV

Job lamented that there was "no mediator between us (God and man), who may lay his hand on us both". - Job 9:33. Thank God for Jesus Christ! He has full knowledge of the world of God and of man. His will be a righteous judgment because he will have all the details of every human life that ever lived. Jesus remains fully God but will always be a man, and he has the scars to prove it!

"This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ.... - Romans 2:16 NIV

".....It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. 1Corinthians 4:4-5 NIV (this last verse is written to Christians)

"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." - Hebrews 4:13

FINAL EXAM

My biology teacher in high school sometimes surprised us with pop quizzes. We were not always prepared for them. I had a professor in college who sometimes gave us hints of what would be on our exams. On the day of our final test, he went to the board and wrote the following words: Sociology of Religion. Then he said: "Tell me what you know". That was our final exam question. I was not caught off guard by this, as I had remembered his allusion to this weeks before. Some others in the class, however, were not prepared. It will be the same when Jesus returns. Some will be prepared, but many others will not be ready to face the final examination. God shows us what he is going to examine when we have our day in his court. He wants us to be prepared. Jesus will be the judge at the Supreme Court.

"As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white as wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out before Him. Thousands upon thousands attended Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened." - Daniel 7:9-10

FACING JESUS and HIS BOOKS

Every person has an appointment they cannot avoid. They will face Jesus Christ and He will pronounce their eternal destiny, and mete out the proper punishments and rewards. The books will be opened. God has books..... those written **for us** and those written **about us**. You have already read from two of his books. We find them in Psalm 19.

The Visual Book: Psalm 19:1-6. We could also call this the **Nature Book**. It is not written with ink on paper. It is the heavenly creation which mankind can read by looking up at the sky. It speaks every day and night, proclaiming the glory of God. Even remote tribes in faraway lands have access to God's visual book in the sky. They instinctively know that there is someone bigger and greater than them, one who is behind this spectacular handiwork. There is the design, detail and variety of the plants, animals, and humans. How could any intelligent person deny that there is an awesome designer of it all?

God has made it plain for all to see that He has eternal power and a divine nature so mankind is without excuse. Rejection of God as creator is the first step downwards of those who suppress the truth. Romans 1:18-32 records their descent into depravity and why God's wrath comes upon them. God's judgment upon nations and others in this life is sometimes called '**abandonment judgment**'. God withdraws his presence and sin reaches its fullness. Even in eternal judgment, God is merely giving people what they wanted in this

life.....life without Him. So when someone ends up in hell, God is granting them their desire. They had no time for God in this life, therefore they will have no time with Him in eternity. Three times in this passage we see the words.....'**God gave them over**'. God hands them over to their sinful heart desires, to shameful lusts, and to depraved minds.

"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools ." - Romans 1:22

God wants to be recognized as the Creator. He even includes it in one of the 10 Commandments where he reminds us that "in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is within them...."Exodus 20:11. The enemy of our souls always seeks to discredit God and deceive mankind. The theory of evolution has led many young people away from their belief in God. Charles Darwin was a key player in this deception with his book on evolution. Darwin's original title for his book was:

"On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life" - Charles Darwin 1859

His theory influenced his cousin Sir Francis Galton in his eugenics (good genes) ideas in the late 1800's. It would influence the thinking of Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood. She had most of the abortion clinics placed in negro neighborhoods as she saw them as an inferior race to be limited. Hitler would use these ideas to promote a Master race and exterminate those who were seen as genetically impure. Some elitists still hold these views. They have stated that they want to see the world population reduced to 500 million from its current 7+ billion. This is the first of 10 tenets of the Georgia Guidestones - Stonehenge like monuments established in rural Georgia in 1980. Their dream is to re-wild most of nature and limit the population of the world to urban centers. They exalt the creation, but ignore the creator. Some feel they were a humanist version to displace God's Ten Commandments. (In July 2022 they were damaged but may be rebuilt)

The Written Book: The last verses in Psalm 19 show us the value of God's Written Word. It helps us through this life by reviving our souls, making us wise, giving us joy and enlightening us. God gives us warning and offers great reward if we follow His Word. At the final judgment, God wants to be able to say to us: 'Well done, good and faithful servant.' The Word of God washes us and prepares us to be a radiant, glorious, spotless and pure church for our bridegroom.....Jesus Christ. - Ephesians 5:26-27. Unlike the other so called 'holy' books of other religions, the Bible really is Holy. It is a book distinctive and wholly different from other books. It is supernatural as evidenced by its accurate prophecies. About 27% of the Bible is prophecy. No other book can compare. God knows the end from the beginning. We will have a good beginning and ending if we read and obey the truths in the Bible.

The Book of Life: In September of 1987, I gathered all the evangelism contact slips from the American team that had helped us in our outreach in London the previous month. One name caught my attention, Ken on Talbot road. The remarks on the slip said that he had a death experience. I went to visit Ken one afternoon. He shared with me that almost twenty years before, he had a death experience where he found himself approaching this very big gate to a city. A man that looked like a prophet walked towards him. He told Ken that he could not enter the gate of the city, because his name was not in the book. I shared with Ken the meaning of his encounter and referred him to the following passage:

"If anyone's name was not found in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." - Revelation 20:15

I visited Ken more than once, but somehow he never really took God's message seriously. His eyes remained blinded to the truth of God's words and the importance of making sure one's name was in the book of life. Most people find it important to make hotel reservations before they go on a vacation. However, the vast majority of people do not take the time to make their reservation secure for their trip into eternity. What must we do to make sure? Our only work is to place our full trust in the work that God has already done for us through Jesus Christ.

"What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of

God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." - John 6:28-29

One of the greatest gifts we can give to God is our lives and also the willingness to see others give their lives fully to Him. Make a list of those whom you want to see come to Christ. Give the gift of praying for them until they finally see the wonderful supremacy of Jesus Christ. God has gifts for believers and they are recorded in another book.

The Book Remembrance God does not remember the sins of believers. They were judged at the cross. However, he does record the good works that we have done. He remembers those who fear Him and honor his name - Malachi 3:16. **Our works** will be **judged** for their **purity and motives**. The chaff will be burned up, but that which is done for him in love will remain. - 1 Corinthians 3:8-15. When I was in my late 20's I first read about how God is going to reward believers for good works. Somehow, I never had heard that before. It motivated me to take Jesus' words to heart where he told us....

"Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven..... - Matthew 6:20"

God keeps track of everything we do. He will reward us for **faithfulness, fruitfulness** and for all that brought glory to his name. As we stand face to face with Jesus Christ, we will realize like never before, how awesome and majestic he is. His eyes are like blazing fire. He will not condemn us, but will reveal our deepest motives. He will wipe away our tears. He will also commend us for that which was good. How precious it will be to hear his affirmation.

"At that time each will receive his **praise from God." - 1 Corinthians 4:5**

Prayer: Father, thank you for preparing us to live in this life and in the next. May each of us take encouragement from this lesson. Change us and renew us. Increase our vision for the great plan you have for your eternal son Jesus and our part in it. Amen.

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