



Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

“The Final Judgement and Eternal Punishment”

Lesson 18 – The Nature of the Final Judgement and Who Will Be Judged

August 6, 2017

I. Lesson Starter:

Last two week we began our section dealing with the Body, Soul and Spirit of the unbelievers by setting the stage with our discussion of the Final Judgement and Eternal Punishment. Today we will continue that review by looking at the nature of the Final Judgement and who will be judged.

II. Nature of the Final Judgment

As we studied in our previous two lesson, the timing of the final judgement will occur after the millennial period. We want to concentrate on several key components of the Final judgement today:

1. Jesus Christ will be the Judge

2 Timothy 4:1

¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom...

Acts 10:42-43

⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Matthew 25:31-36

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’”

The right to act as judge over the whole universe is something that the Father has given to the Son:

- John 5:26-27 – “For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.”

2. Unbelievers will be Judged

Revelations 20:11-14

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens 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 they had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Romans 2:5-7

⁵ But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ God "will repay each person according to what they have done." ⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

It is clear that all unbelievers, both dead and alive, will stand before Christ for judgement. There is some debate about whether there will be degrees of punishment (Luke 12:47-48; Matthew 11:22; Luke 20:47; Matthew 12:36; Eccl 12:14). In any case though, on the day of judgement the secrets of people's hearts will be revealed and made public before Jesus.

3. Angels will be Judged

2 Peter 2:4-11

⁴ For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgement;...9...to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

¹⁰ This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, they are not afraid to heap abuse on celestial beings; ¹¹ yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not heap abuse on such beings when bringing judgment on them from the Lord.

Peter clearly says that the rebellious angels have been committed to pits of gloom to be kept until judgement. Jude 6 also talks about rebellious angels being kept by God "until the judgment of the great day". Rebellious angels or demons will be subject to judgment on the that last day.

1 Corinthians 6:3

² Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? ³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

While scripture does not have much and is not definitive, the above scripture seems to support the fact that God's children will help in some way at the Final Judgement and specifically related to angels. Most interpret these as righteous angels in judging righteous deeds just as Christ will be for His children.

4. Believers will help in the Work of Judgement

It is simply amazing to think that we will help in the Final Judgement from the New Testament teaching, but it is true! Our scripture above 1 Corinthians says that we will take part in the judgement process. While it could be argued that it could be as simple as "watching the judgement by Christ", this does not really seem to fit what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:2-3. Also in Revelations 20:4 it says "seated on them were those to whom judgement was committed". While this may not be a direct reference, it does mention a plurality indicating that Christ does not reserve every aspect of the process of judging for himself alone. What part do you think this might allude too? Who are these plurality of folks around the throne helping?

III. Group Questions:

1. In section 2 scriptures about unbelievers, what does this say about unbelievers and where their spirit and soul go upon their physical earthly death? What words give you this clue?
2. Does 2 Peter 2:4-11 imply that angels will be held to the same "righteous standard" as humans? Why?
3. In 1 Corinthians 6:2-3, who do you believe is helping Christ judge at his throne in the Final Judgement? What part do you believe they contribute and why?