



## Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

### “The Final Judgement and Eternal Punishment”

#### Lesson 20 – Nature of the Final Judgement and Who Will Be Judged

August 13, 2017

#### I. **Lesson Starter:**

Last week we started looking at the Nature of the Final Judgement, with an emphasis on non-believers. Today we will be continuing our review of the Final Judgement looking at believers participation.

#### II. **Nature of the Final Judgment**

We will continue today to concentrate on several key components of the Final judgement today:

##### 1. **Believers will be the Judged**

###### **Romans 14:10-12**

*<sup>10</sup> You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat. <sup>11</sup> It is written: “As surely as I live,” says the Lord, “every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.” <sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.*

###### **1 Corinthians 5:10**

*<sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

###### **Romans 2:6-11**

*<sup>6</sup> God “will repay each person according to what they have done.” <sup>7</sup> To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. <sup>8</sup> But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. <sup>9</sup> There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; <sup>10</sup> but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>11</sup> For God does not show favoritism.*

Each of us will give an account of himself to Jesus Christ, the final judge. Christ will separate the goats from the sheep as we have read in the past from Matthew 25:31-46, rewarding those who receive his blessings. It is important to remember, that with our sins already forgiven by Christ’s blood, the “judgement” of the believers will be a judgement to evaluate and bestow various degrees of reward! This will not be a judgement for believers of condemnation, we are already forgiven.

###### **John 5:24-27**

*<sup>24</sup> “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. <sup>25</sup> Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. <sup>26</sup> For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup> And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. “will repay each person according to what they have done.”*

The Final day of judgement is one in which believers are rewarded and unbelievers are punished.

##### 2. **What about the Secrets/Sins of Believers at the Final Judgement?**

Will all of the secrets and sins of the believer be revealed just as they will for judgement of unbelievers at the Great White Throne Final Judgement? While we may be lead to think so from some scriptures, lets look

at what God has said about the sin of believers and forgiveness! Many verses speak of God never again calling up or remembering our sins of the past once a believer is forgiven by accepting Christ as their savior.

### **Micah 7:19**

***<sup>19</sup> You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea. <sup>20</sup> You will be faithful to Jacob, and show love to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our ancestors in days long ago.***

### **Psalm 103:11-12**

***For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; <sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.***

### **Isaiah 43:25**

***"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.***

### **Hebrews 8:12**

***For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."** <sup>13</sup> **By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear***

### **3. Degree of Reward for Believers, But!**

#### **2 Corinthians 5:6-10**

***<sup>6</sup> Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. <sup>7</sup> For we live by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.***

This seems to imply degrees of reward for what we have done in this life. The parable of the pounds and many other passages, teach or imply degrees of reward or crowns for believers at the final judgement.

But, we must be very careful and guard against misunderstanding. Even though there will be degrees of reward in heaven, the joy of each person will be full and complete for eternity with our God. There will be no selfish desires or coveting or competitive nature in heaven. Our happiness will not be based on what we possess, our status or power as our selfish nature drives us on earth. This is a good example to follow while we are still on earth; There will always be smarter, faster, richer or greater reward people, so get over it!!!

## **III. Group Questions:**

1. Do you agree that believers will be at the Great White Throne as part of God's Final judgement with the non-believers?
2. Using the scriptures in Section 1 above, discuss the scene before Jesus for 1) Unbelievers and then 2) Believers
3. Why is this part of eternal history of the Final Judgement "Necessary" to end the old earth and heaven?
4. From section 2, discuss the believers presence before Jesus with respect to whether your sins will be reviewed?
5. Why is it so difficult for us to understand eternal happiness that is not driven by rewards in heaven? Do you think from section 3 that these scriptures actually refer to varying amounts of rewards given to His believers depending on what they have done on earth?