

DOCTRINE

JUDGMENTS, PART 1

LESSON #19

Introduction – To introduce us to the word “judgment,” let me say that it is one of the very important aspects of God’s dealings with man. Judgment, of course, is needed because of the sinfulness of man. If man were righteous, there would be no need of judgment. The words “judge,” “judgment,” or their derivatives are used over five hundred times in the Bible. The Scriptures teach us that nations and kingdoms are based upon judgment. God’s kingdom is based upon just judgment, and God is wanting to teach us to establish our lives upon this kind of judgment. To do so will cause our lives to be much fuller and our direction to be more in agreement with God’s purposes.

Dispensational Judgment – Every dispensation ended in judgment. Some men say the world is getting better and better, and ultimately will end in the bringing in of the Kingdom of God. But Jesus said, “...For judgment I am come into this world...” (John 9:39). Men are not going to build their paradise without judgment upon sin. Adam and Eve lived in a beautiful garden and had fellowship with God, but they sinned by disobedience and were driven from the garden. Thus, sin entered the world. Because of sin, Adam had to earn his living by the sweat of his brow, and had many other heartaches as a result of this judgment. Gen. 3:23-24. The second dispensation ended in the flood because of the exceeding sinfulness of the world at that time. Gen. 7:24. The third dispensation, Human Government, ended in the judgment of the confusion of tongues at the tower of Babel. Gen. 11:9. The fourth dispensation, Promise, extending to Ex. 19:8, also ended in judgment... from the judgment of the death of all the firstborn of Egypt, to the judgment at the Red Sea, and also the giving of the Law with the rumblings of Mt. Sinai. The dispensation of the Law ended in the judgment of Jesus on the cross, bearing the sin of all men, and setting them free if they will believe. The dispensation of Grace will end with the coming of the Lord and the judgment will be the Great Tribulation. This will be the greatest trial man will have ever experienced. The last dispensation, the Kingdom Age, will also end in judgment. Even though this Age will be peace and tranquility, the Great White Throne judgment will consummate this time.

The Greatest Judgment – The cross stands as the great central judgment that all men of the past ages looked forward to, and all those of this age look back to. God’s work of redemption is based upon the cross. We were crucified with Jesus. He suffered for us, the Just for the unjust. The result of this judgment is that we may be free from sin and have a hope of forever living with our Lord in heaven.

Judgments Men Must Make – We often hear the statement, “Don’t judge, lest ye be judged.” or, “Take the beam out of our own eye; then we can take the sliver out of our brother’s eye.” These statements are true, but do not encompass all the teaching of the Scriptures on judgments we must make. I Cor. 2:15 teaches that those who are spiritual judge all things. This means they are able to discern a situation and allow it to touch their lives only in the will of God, not getting involved in things wrong for them. We must make judgments of things that pertain to this life. I Cor. 6:2-8. When things are out of order, brother must judge between brother. All judgments of this kind must be according to the written Word. Church leaders are often called on to make judgments about matters that concern the church. So we have two schools of thought here. One says not to judge, Matt. 7:1-2. The other says we are supposed to make judgments, I Cor. 5:4-6. With regard to judgments we are not to make, see I Cor. 4:3-5. This would be judging motives. Only God can do this. The judgments we must make have to do with acts of sin committed by the

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offending person. Notice I Cor. 9:3-6. These people were examining Paul. This is the kind of judging we cannot do. They were in reality questioning his apostleship.

Judgment of the Nations – Matt. 25:31-46; Joel 3:2. This judgment is immediately after the battle of Armageddon and will be made on the basis of how the nations have treated Israel. Remember, this is a judgment of nations, and not individual people.

White Throne Judgment – Rev. 20:11-15. This judgment will include all men of all ages that have rejected Jesus Christ. These unbelievers will be raised from the dead at this time to be judged according to their deeds. They will then all be cast into the eternal judgment of the lake of fire. This judgment will occur at the end of the Kingdom Age.

Conclusion: God loves righteousness and judgment – Ps. 33:5; Ps. 37:28. Judgment is His habitation – Ps. 89:14. Destruction comes because of the lack of judgment – Prov. 13:23. Judgment is more acceptable than sacrifice – Prov. 21:3. LUKE 11:42 JOHN 5:22

1. Why are judgments needed?
2. State some verses that indicate how important God thinks judgments are.
3. If we make proper judgments in our lives, what will be the result?
4. How did each dispensation end?
5. What was the problem in the first dispensation, and what was the judgment?
6. What judgment ended the second dispensation?
7. The third?
8. The fourth?
9. The fifth?
10. The sixth?
11. The seventh?
12. Which of these judgments is most important in Scripture?
13. What kind of judgments are we not to make?
14. Which ones must we make?
15. Explain the judgment of the nations.
16. Explain the White Throne Judgment.