

## Chapter 9

### Doctrine of Eternal Judgment

God has during the history of man, judged the earth and man many times. The first judgment was against Adam and Eve when they were cast out of the Garden of Eden. After about 1656 years, God was grieved with the wickedness of man on the earth and repented that He had made man. But Noah found grace in the eyes of God and was commanded to build an ark providing an escape from the impending judgment that was to come. Noah became the means of saving the world at that time, but no one believed his message and only eight souls were saved from the flood that destroyed every living thing that drew the breath of life (Gen. Chapters 6 & 7).

The next major judgment came in the life time of Abraham who pleaded for the rescue of his nephew, Lot and his family. Sodom, Gomorra, Admah and Zeboim were the target cities because of the filthy and ungodly life style practiced by that society. Lot, his wife and two daughters were spared the destruction, but had to be pulled out before the fires came. Israel as a nation was judged many times for their misconduct. In each case, God provided a means whereby the judgment could be avoided. The people, person or nation who would repent and accept God's terms of deliverance were not judged. Will the righteous God judge the wicked and the righteous alike? NO!

There is yet one more major judgment to face this world. The term by which it is known is the 'Time of Tribulation'. This world wide judgment lasts for seven years and is divided into two equal parts of three and half years each. The second half is referred to as the 'Great Tribulation' where God himself is at war with man and the destruction will be so severe during those seven years that only one sixth (1/6) of human kind will survive. (Ezek. 39:2). This time is also called 'Jacob's Trouble' (Jer:304-7); 'The Day of the Lord' (Isa. 13:9 / Joel 2:1); 'The Day of His Wrath/Indignation' (Zeph. 1:15 / Isa. 26:20); 'The Great and Terrible Day of the Lord' (Joel 2:31 / Mal. 4:5) and last, 'The Great

Tribulation' (Matt.24:21). Matthew chapter 24 details the last day event as do all of the Minor Prophets and Isaiah, Ezekiel and Daniel.

Before the tribulation begins, the one event the living church is looking for is the Rapture of the Church. The catching away of those who are saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. *"Come my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself for a little moment, until my indignation be over past". (Isa.26:20)* *"If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which SLEEP in Jesus will God bring with him. — For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord". (1 Thes.4:14-18)* This horrible time on earth will end with the battle of Armageddon (Rev.16:16) At the conclusion of this great battle between God and man led by the Anti-Christ, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ will take place. He sets up a kingdom, called the Millennial Kingdom, where Christ sits on the throne of David and rules the world for a thousand years. We, the church, will reign with him as kings and priest unto God. *"And hath made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on earth". (Rev.5:10)*

None of the above judgments involved the Soul. The body in death is the part of man that suffers in these judgments. As stated previously, there are three stages of death. Separation from God, (spiritual), Body death where it goes into the grave waiting for the resurrection and third, eternal damnation, called the 'second death' which is hell fire. *"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the SECOND DEATH HATH NO POWER, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years". (Rev.20:6)*

Eternal Judgment then, is of the Soul (Rom.2:9) *"---Tribualtion and anguish, upon every SOUL of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Greek".* Let

us not think in terms of the body. As those who receive life will have a body prepared for eternal life, so will those who are judged for the Second Death (Hell Fire) have a form fitted for the eternal damnation to be suffered. We often picture Hell with these present bodies and the suffering we undergo now if we are burned, but remember at death these current bodies will return to the dust from which it came. In the case of those in the first resurrection, we know that a new body or house will be given at His appearing, but nothing is said concerning the condition of those who are sentenced to the fires of Hell. The only indicator seems to be the parable of the rich man who asked for Abraham to bring some water to cool his tongue for he was “tormented in that place”. Since Hell was made for the Devil and his angels (Matt.25:41), who are spirits without tangible bodies as we, and are to suffer eternal torment (Matt.8:29), then it is possible for the wicked to be judged and suffer in a similar form. When the term “destroyed” is used in connection with eternal judgment it does not mean annihilation, that is judged for a space of time and then disappear. Remember judgment is dealing with souls and not bodies.

There are ample scriptures to support the fact of the wicked suffering extreme torment for ever and ever. (Rev.20:10). This judgment will take place at the “Great White Throne” (Rev.20:11) but will not include those of the first resurrection. The Church will be with the Judge (Jesus) and will actually make up His throne. *“But the Lord shall endure for ever, He has prepared his throne [church] for judgment”*. (Psa.9:7 / 1 Cor.6:2). God will be the final judge and there are no appeals from this judgment. The record of each life will be presented and from that record every soul will be judged and given either life or death.

**Judgement: To separate; to make a division (distinction) between two or more entities.**

- Heb.9:27 God has appointed man once to die after that the judgement.
- Rev.20:1-15 Those who are judged in the second resurrection
- Matt.13:49 The judgement of the Righteous and Wicked.
- Matt. 25:31-46 Before Him was gathered all nations to be judged.
- Matt.18:7-9 Everlasting fire and Hell are the same thing.
- Mark 9:42-48 Hell fire not to be quinned and the worm (soul) never die.

- Isa. 5:14 Hell has enlarged itself without measure.
- Isa. 30:33 Hell is ordained of old.
- Matt.25:41 Hell is prepared for the Devil and his angels.
- Matt.8:29 Have you (Jesus) come to torment us BEFORE our time?
- II Pet. 2:4-9 The wicked angels are reserved unto judgment. (Jude vs 6)
- Isa.66:24 We, who are saved, will see the tormented bodies of the wicked in Hell.
- II Thes.1:9-10 Those that trouble you are punished with everlasting destruction.
- Rev.21:8 Who shall have part in the Second Death?
- Psa.9:7 The wicked are turned into Hell.
- Rom.2:2,5-8 The judgment of God is according to truth.
- Matt.25:41,46 Everlasting fire - everlasting punishment.
- Matt.10:14-15 Those judged at Sodom and Gomorrah are better off than those who reject truth.
- Dan.12:2 Some will be raised to everlasting contempt.
- Matt.3:12 Fan is in His hand - will burn the chaff with unquenchable fire.
- Acts 17:31 There is coming a day when Christ will judge the world in righteousness.
- Acts 24:25 Paul reasoned of the Judgment to come.
- Mark 16:16 Those who believe not will be damned.
- Heb.10:26-27 If one sins willfully, look for judgment and fiery indignation.
- Rom.2:2-16 The soul is the object of judgment.
- Matt.13:30,40-50 Angels to gather the tares and burn them with fire.
- Rev.14:9-11 How long is Hell? Forever and forever (eternal).
- Rev.22:14-15 Eternal judgment for those who DO NOT His commandments.
- Job.21:30 Wicked reserved to the day of Judgement.
- Matt. 7:22-23 Many will say in that day, Lord, Lord! He will say 'Depart you workers of iniquity'.

**Outer Darkness: (A term used in place of hell or eternal separation from God)**

- Matt.22:11-13 Bind him, cast into outer darkness (No wedding garment).
- Matt.24:48,51 The portion of hypocrites - weeping and gnashing of teeth. (The unfaithful servant. See Job 8:13.)
- Luke 12:46 The unfaithful servant's portion with the unbelievers and beaten with many stripes.
- Matt.25:30 The unprofitable servant in outer darkness.
- Matt.13:42 Children of Kingdom rejected and cast into outer darkness.
- Matt.8:12 The tares and the children of the kingdom.
- Matt.23:33 The damnation of Hell.

## The Second Death

The Church and those in the First Resurrection will have no part of being judged at the White Throne Judgment but will join with Christ and say "Righteous and just are thy judgments O God" (Rev.19:2).

- Rev.20:6      Those in the First Resurrection, the Second Death has no power.
- Rom.2:5-6      God to render to all according to the DEEDS done in the body (this life).
- John 5:29      Those who have done good given life -- those who have done evil, death.
- Eccl.12:14      God to judge the secrets of men's hearts.
- Psa.62:12      God will render to every man according to his works.
- Rev.22:12      The reward will be according as their works shall be.
- Rev.20:12      Dead are judged from the Book, according to works.

The judgment at the eternal bar of divine justice will be according to the deeds done in this life. *"For God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil"* (Eccl. 12:14) *"[God] Who will render to every man according to his deeds"*. (Rom. 2:6) *" -- The dead were judged out of those books, according to their works"*. (Rev. 20:12) *"And, behold, I come quickly and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be"* (Rev. 22:12)

If one's deeds and works are to be judged, then there must be some standard by which "WORKS" can be justly evaluated (Acts 17:31). Someone who does not know our feeling could not judge fairly and righteously. Jesus came in the flesh, was tempted in the flesh but remained without sin, providing a way for us to boldly come before Him and find grace to help in our need. Therefore, with this first hand knowledge of man's experiences and temptations, He is qualified to judge any and all men. How one has received Christ will be the basis of man's judgment also.

- Heb.4:15 He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin.
- II Thes.1:6-10 Those who reject are punished with fire.
- Mark 16:16 The unbeliever is to be damned.
- John 5:22,27 Judgment given to the Son to execute.
- Acts 10:42 Jesus to judge the living and dead. (2 Tim.4:1 / 1 Pet.4:5)
- Acts 17:31 God has appointed a day to judge by Jesus Christ.
- Dan.7:9-10 Man to be judged by the "Ancient of Days" (God).
- Jude vs 7 The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah are examples of hell.

The conclusions we draw from the Doctrine of Eternal Judgment are first; Hell was not made for man originally, but for the devil and his angels. Next, Hell has enlarged itself to accommodate the vast majority of man-kind to this eternal place of destruction. Those who live ungodly and reject Jesus Christ as Saviour, will be judged by the righteous standards of a just and Holy God through Jesus Christ, the Judge of all men. This judgment setting is called the "Great White Throne Judgment". The Church, who makes up His throne, will be there and will confirm the judgment passed out at that time. There will be two classes of men judged, the Just (good) and the Unjust or wicked (bad). Each group will be judged according to their works or deeds done in this present life. The wicked who are sentenced to eternal damnation will be tormented in the fires of hell for ever and ever with no appeal or deliverance. This judgment is FINAL!

Those who are judged worthy of life, whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, will be delivered from this "Second Death" and will live eternally with God in some place in heaven. God has a set of books where the deeds of man are recorded and the main volume which is the "Word of God". The Blessed and Holy, those who are of the "First Resurrection", will not be judged at this judgment setting. Our judgment is now, for Judgment (for the saints) begins at the House of God (1 Pet.4:17-18).

These six "Principles of the Doctrine" are the foundation for our goal of "Going on to perfection. To be perfect, we must know the will of God and be obedient to practice His will all our saved days on this earth. From this foundation teaching, which we believe, the full doctrine of Christ will be revealed as an expansion for our growth and

maturity in Him. It is not His will that we remain little children or babes in Christ, but to grow unto the full stature of the mature man as demonstrated by the example set before us by Jesus Christ our Lord.

We have reached the top of this stair-case. Now it is time to move away from the foundation, not forgetting the Principles on which one is to build and proceed to the full grown, mature child of God we are destined to become. The life of Holiness is now before us and unless one measures to its standards they will remain as immature children who need to learn the first principles again.