

## Doctrine of Judgment

1. While people enjoy hearing about the love of God and His great mercy, there is a strong abhorrence to hearing about God's judgment upon sin and sinners.
2. The Greek word for judgment is *krisis* (kree'-sis), from which we get "crisis". The word means, "decision (subjectively or objectively, for or against); by extension, a tribunal; by implication, justice (especially, divine law).
  - Human Tribunal. *Matthew 5:22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.*
  - Divine Tribunal. *2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*
3. Several judgment seats are mentioned in Scripture. Rarely did a Christian find justice before any tribunal.

### Jewish Tribunal

- Caiaphas, the Jewish high priest was cruel. *John 18:28 Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.*

### Roman Tribunal

- Pilate was spineless. *John 19:13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.*

*Matthew 27:19 When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.*

*Matthew 27:24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. 25 Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.*

- Gallio was indifferent. *Acts 18:12 And when Gallio was the deputy of Achaia, the Jews made insurrection with one accord against Paul, and brought him to the judgment seat, 13 Saying, This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law. 14 And when Paul was now about to open his mouth, Gallio said unto the Jews, If it were a matter of wrong or wicked lewdness, O ye Jews, reason would that I should bear with you:*

*15 But if it be a question of words and names, and of your law, look ye to it; for I will be no judge of such matters. 16 And he drave them from the judgment seat. 17 Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the chief ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. And Gallio cared for none of those things.*

- Festus was cautious. *Acts 25:4 But Festus answered, that Paul should be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself would depart shortly thither. 5 Let them therefore, said he, which among you are able, go down with me, and accuse this man, if there be any wickedness in him. 6 And when he had tarried among them more than ten days, he went down unto Caesarea; and the next day sitting on the judgment seat commanded Paul to be brought.*
- Felix was greedy. *Acts 23:35 I will hear thee, said he, when thine accusers are also come. And he commanded him to be kept in Herod's judgment hall.*

*Acts 24:26 He hoped also that money should have been given him of Paul, that he might loose him: wherefore he sent for him the oftener, and communed with him. 27 But after two years Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.*

4. One day, every man, woman, and child shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ to give an honest account to God.
  - *Romans 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*
5. What shall be judged?
  - The words we speak. *Matthew 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the Day of Judgment.*
6. Time and again the Bible speaks about a final Day of Judgment in order to emphasize the certainty of that event. Judgment will be measured out.
  - Homes and cities that reject the gospel will be punished more severely than Sodom and Gomorrha. *Matthew 10:15 Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the Day of Judgment, than for that city.*
  - Chorazin and Bethsaida will be punished more severely than Tyre and Sidon. *Matthew 11:22 But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the Day of Judgment, than for you.*
7. Gentiles as well as Jews are brought into judgment. Judgment upon the Gentiles will be unto victory.

- *Matthew 12:18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles. 19 He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. 20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.*
8. Knowing the terror of the Lord against those who do not repent and embrace the atoning work of Christ, Paul was motivated to witness.
- *2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.*
9. On the final Day of Judgment some events have already been foretold and are certain to happen at that time.
- The men of Nineveh shall rise up to judge the Jesus Generation. *Matthew 12:41 The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.*
  - The Queen of Sheba shall rise up to judge the Jesus Generation. *Matthew 12:42 The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.*
10. The person to whom every individual will bow to be judged is Jesus Christ.
- *John 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:*
11. Final judgment has been entrusted to Jesus Christ because He is not only true deity, He is true humanity and can identify with human frailties.
- *John 5:27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.*
12. The judgment of Christ is always just.
- *John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*
  - *John 8:16 And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.*

13. There is a spiritual judgment of Christ that takes place in time.

- *John 9:39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.*

14. One of the greatest acts of judgment Jesus has already rendered has been on Satan.

- *John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.*
- *1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*
- *Revelation 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,*

15. While individuals hate the judgment of God, they are aware of God, His justice, and that they are worthy of condemnation.

- *Romans 1:32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

16. The basis on which God judges is truth.

- *Romans 2:2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.*

17. There are two sides to judgment. There is the side of mercy, and there is the side of judgment. The Passover illustrates this truth, as does the Cross. While mercy is shown to some, judgment is rendered on others.

18. Christians must live so as to be worthy of God's mercy, and worthy of the kingdom of God.

- *2 Thessalonians 1:5 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:*

19. While the Day of Judgment will reveal the secrets of men's hearts, some sins go before an individual and are known by all.

- *1 Timothy 5:24 Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.*

20. The Doctrine of the Day of Judgment is a foundational truth of the Christian faith.

- *Hebrews 6:2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.*

21. The Day of Judgment will come after death, so time is given for individuals to prepare.

- *Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment*

22. Those who engage in presumptuous sinning, and die with sin unconfessed and unrepented of, should be afraid.

- *Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.*

23. The certainty of a final Day of Judgment is predicated on the fact that God has already judged the angels that sinned.

- *2 Peter 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;*

24. The Lord knows how to reserve the unjust unto the Day of Judgment.

- Unjust men. *2 Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the Day of Judgment to be punished:*

***Special Note.***

Some people believe the wicked are reserved in the grave in a state of soul sleep until the resurrection. Others believe they are reserved consciously in hell.

- Unjust angels (demons). *Jude 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.*

25. The physical universe will be included in the Day of Judgment.

- *2 Peter 3:7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the Day of Judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

26. Love for God, perfect love, allows the Christian to have no fear of the Day of Judgment.

- *1 John 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.*

27. The purpose of the Day of Judgment is not only to evaluate individual lives, and execute justice, but also to convince the ungodly that Jesus Christ is who He claimed to be. Note all people believe in Christ nor do they believe in a Day of Judgment.

- *Jude 15 To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.*

28. The Day of Judgment is a day of fear, and a day of glory.

- *Revelation 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*