

**“Why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at naught thy brother? For we shall ALL stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ,”** Romans 14:10.

**“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son,”** John 5:22.

Dear Covenant Brothers and Sisters in Jesus,

A few years ago, I heard a man talk of his experience after his city was flooded by unseasonal rain storms. He was a hard working blue-collar guy that scrimped and saved to provide for his family. Several years after they moved into their new house, he was able to save up enough money to finish their basement and turn it into a playroom/den for their growing family. The remodel had only been completed for a few months before the untimely heavy rains fell, flooding their city and filling their entire basement with flood water. He said that after the rains stopped, he was sitting on the top step of the stairs leading to the newly finished family room, with the flood waters just a step or two below his feet. Feeling defeated and depressed, wondering what he was going to do next and regretting all the time and money invested in the now underwater (swimming pool) family room, in that lonely moment he said that he felt the presence of the Lord sit down beside him. As Jesus put His arm around this desponded Christian's shoulder, he heard Jesus say, **“It's OK, I was going to burn it up anyway.”**

How much of what we do in this world is going to be burned up? How much will be saved? Oh, for sure, before the new Earth, every physical thing will burn, but what of our life's work will last, survive, or be burnt and lost?

You know that we are not one to meddle in church or denominational teachings but rather strive to stick close to the Word of God and not the word of man. I am careful to address this subject today as there are so many different teachings, and only do so because we received mail that reflected some concern of the different teachings. There is not enough space here to discuss the subject in more detail, however, there are several important scriptures that we need to talk about. [Watch our web page for a deeper study as we cover this, who will and who won't be in Heaven, and the unpardonable sin.]

But first, as I often do, I would like to ask you a few questions to stir your thinking. **What of our life will last? What are we held accountable for? Will we be judged for our sins, past or present? Will a person's sins send them to Hell? Can a person receive Christ and still go to Hell?** We will address these from the Word of God. My opinion (or anyone else's) doesn't matter, only the Word of God matters!!! So, what does the Bible say about judgment?

First, there are three (3) types of judgments; (1) judgments that have already occurred, (2) judgments in today's life, and the (3) judgments that are to come in the future. One of first judgments that we know about is when Lucifer rebelled against the LORD and he and his fallen angels were driven out of Heaven. Then, some of the fallen angels who sinned were bound and sent to Hell's dark pit awaiting their judgment.

**“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,”** Jude 1:6. **“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,”** 2 Peter 2:4.

The next major judgment is the judgment against Adam, Eve, the serpent in the Garden, and the Earth as told in the Third Chapter of **Genesis**. (1) Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden after they disobeyed God's commandment. But wait, this was not the only judgment from their sin. (2) The serpent was judged and cursed below every beast of the field and to live upon his belly all the days of his life. (3) Eve was judged to live in sorrow in child birth and under the rule of Adam. (4) Her seed and the serpent's seed would be enemies and hate each other forever. (5) Adam was forbidden to eat of the Tree of Life. (6) He had to work and toil in sorrow for his food, and (7) the ground was cursed to bear thorns and thistles.

Next in **Genesis** Chapter 7, we read of the judgment against the entire Earth because of the sin in the Earth which resulted in it being flooded, killing every living soul and animal, except for Noah, his family, and a boat load of living creatures. God then made a Covenant with all living things that He would never destroy the world again by water and placed His Rainbow in the sky as His sign of His Covenant.

The history of the flood was not enough to keep man from sinning again, which brought about God's judgment when mankind built the **Tower of Babel** as recorded in **Genesis** Chapter 11. This sin of building a tower to reach Heaven, their pride, and their ability to do anything they set their mind to do, caused God to destroy the tower and judge them with strange and different tongues (languages).

Never learning that sinning against God's commandments brings judgment, we read later in **Genesis 19** where sin's penalty led to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah for their rampant wickedness and all sorts of sexual immorality. There may be a short time of sin's enjoyment, but it will be followed by sin's eternal judgment.

Next, we remember the sin and judgment against Egypt as recorded in **Exodus** Chapters seven through twelve. The sins of Egypt were not just Pharaoh's refusal to release the Israelites or for their enslavement (which didn't help Pharaoh's cause), but also because they worshiped many strange gods. Their judgment came as God remembered and stood by His Covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

This next judgment changed the world forever as a single man was judged for **ALL** the sins of the world. Yes, an innocent man was killed for the sins of mankind as was prophesied in **Isaiah 53:4-8**. This was the **ultimate judgment** and

price paid for disobeying God's Will and Commandments. **Jesus Christ died for our sins!** As a result of God's Covenant with Jesus, Jesus was raised from the dead and now sits at the **Right Hand of God** the Father for all of eternity on the **Throne of His Glory**. This is where the next judgments will take place sometime in the future. We know where, we just don't know when.

There is a judgment taking place today, during the church age. It is called the **"self-evaluation."** **"Examine** (judge) **yourself, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"** 2 Corinthians 13:5. We are to continually examine and judge ourselves according to God's Word to avoid future loss at the **Judgment Seat of Christ**. **"Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup** (of communion)," 1 Corinthians 11:28; **"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world,"** 1 Corinthians 11:31-32 (also see Matthew 18:15-17 and Ephesians 4:21-23).

Finally, let's look at the four future judgments that are to come; **"The Judgment Seat of Christ," "The Judgment of the Nation,"** also called "The Judgment of the Sheep and the Goats," **"The Judgment of Angels,"** and **"The Great White Throne of Judgment!"** Each occur at different times and with different defendants.

If you will, think of your local city, county, state, or federal court. A judge (or judges) preside in court over a case, listening to both sides, and then the judge (or jury) will reach (declare) a ruling or verdict in that case. The final word (ruling) may be good or bad for the defendant(s), but both type of rulings come from the same judge, the same bench, and the same court. This concept will clear up a lot of misconceptions of the final judgments of Christ. He doesn't change thrones, benches, rooms, or chairs. **He is on His Throne and rules** (as I see it) in three of the four judgments that are to come, but the courts (or judgments) and defendants are different. The main point here is that **Jesus is the Judge**. He is the "Just" judge. His judgments are fair and just, and can be good or bad for whoever is before the court (Throne).

This point may be a little hard to swallow until you understand the Word, but, everyone, the Word says that **EVERY-ONE**, will stand (kneel) before Jesus on His Throne! Some in judgment and some in reward.

First, **"The Judgment Seat of Christ"** will take place in Heaven, before the King of kings. This court will be for the **righteous saints** after the Church is caught up into Heaven. We will be judged (rewarded) for our works and not our forgiven sins. **Christ has already paid the price for sins forgiven.** The question is, **What have we done for the Kingdom of God since our salvation? How have we lived? What good have we done?** Only our good works for the Kingdom of God will last! **"Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire,"** 1 Corinthians 3:12-15. This is where every unforgiven thing (sin) we have done, said, and our innermost thoughts and motives (whether done in

light or darkness) will be revealed for all to see and judged (burned up) and our good works rewarded. **"Gold, silver, precious stones"** are good and will last, **"wood, hay, stubble"** are bad and will be burnt up (lost).

After the Great Tribulation, Jesus will Judge the Nations, that is, everyone in the gentile nations will be judged on their treatment of Israel and their following of the antichrist. We read about this judgment in **Matthew 25:31-46**.

Paul tells us in **1 Corinthians 6:3**, that the righteous will judge the (fallen) Angels. The Word doesn't go into any more detail than just that. **"Know ye not that we shall judge angels?"**

Finally we come to **"The Great White Throne Judgment"** that John paints a picture of in **Revelation 20:11-15**. This is not a judgment for the saints, churches, or angels. It is the nastiest of all nasty judgments from the defendants point of view, for Christ judgments are fair and just. **Christ is the Righteous Judge!** The **Great White Throne Judgment** is where (and when) all of the unbelievers (those who names are not written down in the Lamb's Book of Life) will be judged for their sins (disobedience to God's Word) and sentenced to their eternal punishment in **Hell** before the creation of the new Heaven and new Earth.

We must remember that the Godhead is perfect, fair, loving, and unchanging. **"The LORD is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of Truth and without iniquity, just and right is He!"** Deuteronomy 32:4.

Thinking on these coming judgments, perhaps this is a good time for a serious moment of reflection. **What sins do you have that are still unrepented and unforgiven? What has God asked you to do that you keep putting off? Will your activities (works) be rewarded or burned up?** I guess the ultimate question is, will Jesus say, **"Well done, My good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things: enter now into the Joy of your Lord,"** or will He say, **"Depart from Me, I never knew you!"**

Your Covenant Brother in Jesus Christ.

*Phillip Buttram*

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### PRAYER REQUEST

Please remember us in your daily prayers. We are facing several issues, including staffing, support, and health. We strive to publish God's Word in truth and power for all the world. We have more requests for Gospel Tracts and comics than we can supply. We need your prayerful help. Pray for God to send laborers into the Harvest field.

### SPANISH BIBLES

We just sent a load of Spanish Bibles to the Tex-Mex border to be handed out by our brothers and sisters in mission outreach ministries in that area. We also have sent Spanish Gospel Tracts to the Arizona area to several mission outreach ministris that teach many crossing the USA border looking for a better life. The best life if found in Jesus Christ!