

**We must give account:****Hebrews 4:12-13 ESV –**

12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

**Revelation 4:11 ESV –** “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

- Because God is the creator of the world, humanity, and all things; everything and everyone is accountable to him.
- All people of all time *must give account to God.*
  - Creation is under the care and accountability of the Creator.

**Psalm 82:8 ESV - 8** Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!

**Psalm 96:10 ESV - 10** Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

**Psalm 96:13 ESV - 13** before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness.

**Psalm 94:2 ESV - 2** Rise up, O judge of the earth; repay to the proud what they deserve!

**The “why” of God’s Judgment**

- Steadfast love, forgiveness, patience, and justice is all part of God’s character.
- The evil sin of humanity cannot ultimately co-exist with God’s righteous character and creation.
- Thus, as God helps humanity, he not only pardons those who trust in him, but he also punishes evil.

**Exodus 34:6-7 ESV –**

6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

- If God gave evil a “free pass”, would you say that he is just? If he doesn’t recognize good, and instead treats evil and good alike, is he just?

### **There are several different kinds and times of judgment:**

- God brings judgment in “real time” to events, peoples, nations (**Ex 34:6-7**).
  - God also *delays* judgment of the same, to deal with at a future time.
- There is a time in which the believers in Christ are judged (**2 Cor 5:10**)
- There is a time when Jesus judges those who are alive on earth when he returns to reign on earth in his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming (**Matt 25:31-46**).
- There is also time when the rest of mankind from all of history is judged- the “last day” or the “great white throne judgment.” (**John 12:48, Revelation 20:11-15**)
  - Every person will face God’s judgment at *some point*.

### **Judgement in General**

**Romans 2:6-11 ESV** - 6 He will render to each one according to his works: 7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; 8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. 11 For God shows no partiality.

- “render to each one according to his works”- God judges in actuality, according to reality.
- There is just judgement *against* those who do evil.
- There is just reward for those who *do good*.
- God does not show partiality- but judges with righteous judgment.

**Romans 2:14-16 ESV** - 14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them 16 on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

- All people (and people groups) will be judged based on the “degree” to which they were exposed to the true knowledge of God.
  - I.e. Israel is has “greater accountability” than Gentiles who were not exposed to God’s truth, promises, and covenants in the same way.
- But, on that day of judgement, it will be the secret (hidden things) of men that will be brought to light.
  - Both the motive and method will be brought to accountability.
- God will do this judgment “by Jesus Christ.”

## Judged by Jesus

**Acts 17:31 ESV** - because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

- Jesus is the standard of righteousness.
  - He is the sinless Son of God and Son of Man- the living example of God's intention for humanity; "the righteous one."
- Thus, he is the one by whom God will judge the world.
  - Jesus is the only one able to judge the world because he is the only one who has never transgressed God's law, but instead, lived as humanity was designed to do, doing the will of the Father completely.
- Christ has been raised from the dead, giving mankind something to *believe*- and they will be judged according to Christ.

**John 5:19-29 ESV** - 19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. 21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. 22 For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, 23 that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. 25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. 27 And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

- This is what Jesus calls the "last day"- that is, the last day of humanity as we know it, before the consummation of a new heavens and new earth.
- *All people* of all time will be raised from the dead to be judged (this excludes certain people previously judged, such as the church).
- Jesus will do the judging because he is the "Son of Man."
- There are those who will be raised from the dead to and then condemned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> death (the lake of fire), and those who will be raised from the dead and given eternal life.
- This is the "resurrection of the just and the unjust."

**Revelation 20:11-15 ESV** - 11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in

them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

### **The Christian Judgment**

- The Christian will face the judgment seat of Christ when he returns to gather us to himself.
- At this time, God will bring us into his *own presence* alongside Jesus Christ.
  - **2 Corinthians 4:14 ESV** - knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.
- At this time, God is preparing his people and the created order to be made “new” and to be a place where *only righteousness* dwells, thus the cleansing process of judgment is necessary to remove all remaining unrighteousness.

### **Romans 14:9-12 NKJV –**

9 For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. 10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

11 For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God."

12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

### **2 Corinthians 5:6-10 ESV –**

6 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord,

7 for we walk by faith, not by sight.

8 Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

9 So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

- Our aim (goal) is to be well-pleasing to Jesus Christ.
  - This is not regarding our “being” but in regard to our “doing”
    - But our “doing” should reflect our “being” as a new creation in Christ.
- We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive what is “due” to us.
  - This will not simply be a “reward stand” but a comprehensive review of both good and evil.

### **1 Corinthians 3:10-15 ESV –**

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.

11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, *which is Jesus Christ*.

12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—

13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.

15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

- What is the purpose?
  - **1 Corinthians 4:1-5 ESV** – 5 Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.
    - This judgment will make it so that *only that which is praiseworthy* will remain.
    - All of the wrong, evil, brokenness, sin, rebellion, and deception will be revealed and burned up like stubble.
    - Only the gold, silver, and precious stones of our lives remain, and they have been purified by the fire of Christ's judgment to be praiseworthy before the Father to whom we are presented alongside Christ.
      - He will usher us into the presence of God himself that we might each receive our commendation from God into eternal life and blessedness. (2 Cor. 4:14)
  - God loves our humanity.
  - God is redeeming the whole our humanity.
    - We were created in the "image of God" but sin has marred our purpose as those made in the likeness of God.
    - God restores the intent of our humanity by cleansing us from what has marred our human experienced once and for all.
    - By cleansing all forms, patterns, and works of unrighteousness, he removes from us all the things which are *contrary to our being* as children of God.
    - He gives us eternal dignity in his image once again, in our resurrected and eternal life in Christ.
    - The judgment seat of Christ makes the trials and triumphs of this life *matter* and have *purpose* that lasts beyond this life and is profitable into eternity.
- **Why is all of this necessary?**

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18 ESV** – 16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.