

Thursday Evening Bible Class.**End Time Study****Additional contributions to supplement Brother Russel's
Introduction****The Judgement****17th September 2020**

God is Holy, Righteous, and Just. The wisdom which is from above includes absolute justice, and judgment, and equity; (Proverbs 1:3) Therefore He is a God of judgment, wrath, and vengeance. But these are not His only characteristics as we know He is merciful, long-suffering, gracious, and compassionate. It is true that mercy rejoiceth against judgment (James 2:13) which is why God has allowed the Kingdom of men, and his sinful behaviour to continue for 6000 years. But as we discussed in the last End Time Study when we looked at the Resurrection, the time of the Kingdoms of men will not continue past the time God has ordained. Of this resurrection, Paul states in Acts 24:15 *there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the Just and Unjust*. This is what we read also in Daniel 12:2...*And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt*. These two outcomes are described in many other places. Consequences attached to actions. As Adam and Eve learned in the very beginning.. the warning was given ... *for in the day that thou eatest thereof dying thou shalt die*. Disobedience ensued, and a day of reckoning was sure to follow: *And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?* So it is that all the Sons of Adam are visited with this day, the day of death. However those who know the will of God, are responsible to judgement after the resurrection, because they disobeyed despite *knowing the goodness and severity of God*, and being deliberately presumptuous, have publicly called God's character into question. They do not simply die the death of all men, but will be raised to life

again – they are classed as the Unjust. Whereas those who have publicly, behaved themselves wisely before God and man, declared the righteousness of God, through faith will be raised to life everlasting – described as the Just.

The Judgment Seat

The Apostle Paul speaks of this moment, this giving of account: 2 Corinthians 5:10-11: *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 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.* Again, the Apostle writes: Romans 14:10-12: *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. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*

This judgement seat, *bema* in Greek was a raised platform or rostrum upon which magistrates sat above those being tried. Indeed, Jesus himself appeared before the judgment seat of Pilate- John 19:13. Gallio had a judgment seat in Corinth, see Acts 18:12. Paul spoke of the judgment seat of Caesar in Acts 25:10, even though he was not in Rome, but before his representatives. So when the Apostle spoke of the idea of a judgment seat, people knew exactly what it meant. It was certainly not understood as an abstract concept, but it was a real part of life, upon which civic life was established. It meant being judged publicly, by absolute authority. To speak then of the judgment seat of Christ, is to appear, to stand to be given a verdict, before others, witnessing to the judgement, it is the final word, absolute authority, where truth

will win the day, there will be no argument. It means standing in person. Unlike Pilate, who judged wrongly, Festus, Gallio, Caesar, and all other judges of the world who God has put in power, Jesus Christ cannot judge falsely, but will speak only the truth, as he always has done: Psalm 98:9 *Before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.*

Order of Judgment

It is true as the Psalmist has pointed out that the Lord Jesus will judge the earth. His judgement upon the earth will begin when he judges the nations commences with the Great Day of God Almighty, at the battle of Armageddon. He will smite the nations with a rod of iron as Psalm 2 tells us. But this judgement is not the judging being spoken of, which will take place at the judgements seat of Christ.

No, this judgement seat is reserved for individuals, those resurrected. This judgement seat will be operating before the judgement of the nations takes place, as those judged righteous at that judgement seat will assist Christ in judging the nations.

Additionally we are specifically told by the Apostle Peter : 1 Peter 4:17: *For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?* Thus it is those who are, or have been members of the house of God, those who are responsible though their knowledge of the Will of God. Several times in slightly different contexts, but to do with judgement at the time of the end, Jesus in his parables speaks of the *first shall be last, and the last shall be first*. Following this idea, it may well be that those who have been so privileged to live through the signs of the times preceding Christ's return, and witnessed the miracle of the resurrection era, including the standing again of the nation of Israel from the valley of dry bones, will stand first before Christ in front of many of the

assembled resurrected, will the outcome be joy of shame and everlasting contempt?

Uncertain Detail

It is difficult to prove where the judgement seat and tribunal will be set up, but seeing that it will be a great and momentous event, and by its nature be witnessed by many, but at the same time be unnoticed by the world, all facts implied by Bible passages such as Psalm 68, and Deuteronomy 33, where the prophecies speak of a coming up from the south, of a great army of saints, the judgement seat, must take place hidden and out of sight, for the nations will be surprised by the appearance of Christ as the Saviour of His people, so maybe God will overrule and ensure a vast space of desert is cleared of man's activities, including satellites and drones! This speculation is not important, but only that we realise, that this judgement seat will be literal. Our reactions at the verdict literal. Quite how long we will stand before Christ is not known. If each person was given just one minute, every hour of the day and night for a full year only about half a million people would be judged. Maybe the judgement will take 40 years. A million to be judged, 20 minutes each? Who knows? Does it matter? Christ Jesus already knows the outcome. So does each individual coming to that tribunal, their conscience will be pricked.

What kind of examination

It will be so simple to identify truth or lie. We know in our heart, if we are at one with God. 1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.* It is possible to be perfect. Forgiven. If we are perfect as so commanded. We can *with boldness approach the throne of grace.* (Heb 4:16). But Paul says: 1 Corinthians 4:5 *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the*

Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God. This illustrates perfectly how the Lord Jesus will read our minds. Our secret guilts, consciences or covered up sins, our acting will be exposed. Insincerity will be shown, the wax will melt under the fiery gaze to reveal the cracks in the vessels of dishonour. Romans 2: 6 *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.* Such secrets as: 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.* An idle word, is one which has not been covered over, forgiven. We know what we are like, bad tempered outbursts, or scurrilous exchanges, salacious gossip, unbecoming as a servant of the Lord. If this behaviour is not admitted, confessed and forgiven, it is idle. We have buried it.

The Judgement of the Unjust

In Luke 19:20 we read of a certain type of person who has received the knowledge of the word of God, has had the seed planted within their heart, knows the word of God very well indeed, however decides that the effort required to live that Word, is just too much effort. Too many sacrifices have to be made. They want to have fun, and do their own thing, and simply can't be bothered. Jesus describes this very common type of individual as someone who stores up the gift of the knowledge of the word – for another day. And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: This type of person is full of excuses, even blaming the Lord Jesus: 21 *For I feared you, because you are an austere man: You withdraw what you did not deposit and reap what you did not sow.* We see knowledge and responsibility being admitted by this character. But the truth has been admitted – fear. Not faith, perfect love casts out fear. But fear of missing out on

what this world offers, fear of getting it wrong, fear of failing, fear of not being worthy enough, fear of punishment. So instead of addressing the fear, and seeing they are the problem, this ostrich type bury their head in the sand, in this case, the money in a napkin in the ground, and ignore the problem. To deal with the gift of the love of Christ in such a way, is to crucify him afresh, to disdain the greatest opportunity on offer. Jesus continued the parable: 22 *And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant...* 26 -27 *For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.* 27 *But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.* This parable implies a public punishment, it also shows how those who are not of faith that is unjust, these will be punished *before me*, before the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Judgement of the Just

The arrival of the just will be noticeably different. No aggression, direct eye contact, unafraid, but humble. Very humble, excited though. Not knowing whether to smile or cry, look up or down, different as each character has been formed in the crucible of life, but all the same – honest. They will readily admit their weaknesses, they know them so well. They haven't buried them, or ignored them they have tried to fight sin. They have not been successful. They bow down, and say Lord – have mercy on me a sinner. True they know the terror of the Lord, they do know how to fear the Lord, they know he is a consuming fire. But they trust that Jesus being touched with the feelings of their infirmities will understand their frame, and will have compassion. They do not need to list their meagre achievements. Jesus has seen their efforts. They have multiplied their talents, their pounds, their faith, small efforts for most, but all obtained a good report through faith. *Well done, thou*

good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Words which will be transforming in every way. Changed in a twinkling to be clothed in life everlasting immortality to feel infused with the spirit, radiating within us. That elation we feel occasionally when we find or understand some new spiritual golden nugget, only so much more will overcome us – never to die, but to live in Christ, to be truly at one with him, part of the immortal Elohim.

We see ourselves in amongst the Just – but are we really worthy? 1 Corinthians 11:31 *For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.*

Brother Terry