

21st CENTURY TRUTHS

Volume 1

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Issue 9

What Will Happen on the Judgment Day?

"The deeds we do, the words we say, into the still air they seem to fleet, we count them ever past; but they shall last, - in the dread of judgment, they and we shall meet again" (John Keeble).

On the final day, the Lord shall descend from Heaven, the dead raised, and the living changed and this spinning ball of dirt and rocks will be dissolved (I Thess. 4:16, I Cor. 15:52, John 5:28-29). The only place remaining Heaven and Hell. To determine each person's destiny, all will be gathered together before the great judgment seat of God, WITHOUT exception (Matt. 25:32). He will then separate the sheep from the goats, the wheat from the chaff, the righteous from the unrighteous. The great judge will welcome the righteous to their eternal home and condemn the wicked to everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:34, 41). Every person shall stand alone and be judged according to their own works (II Cor. 5:10).

Understand, there will be no plea bargaining or excuses made on that day. Such judgment will be complete, including our thoughts and deeds; there will be no secrets remaining as we stand before the Great I Am (Matt. 12:36-37; Rev. 20:12-14). The judgment will be final with no procrastination or reprieve for time, as we know it, has forever ceased (Matt. 25:41-46). TODAY is our "second chance"; at judgment all opportunities will have ended. I don't know about you, but just considering such a day should make us want to excel in serving and obeying God to our fullest.

There will be some surprises for some on the day of judgment. Many will be surprised that judgment is real and not a dream/nightmare. We may have a hard time understanding the reality of such a day. We live confidently that we have tomorrow. That is a foolish mistake as judgment is real and is certain. Many may scoff of such a day as they did in Noah's time (II Pet. 3:3). Nevertheless, scoffing does not diminish the reality of judgment. Scoffing did not stop the flood nor will it stop God's judgment day. Imagine how the scoffers outside of Noah's ark felt as they gasped for breath one last time before going down into a watery abyss. At that point, do you think they realized that God means what He said that that His judgment was real.

The time of judgment will surprise some. For 120 years, Noah warned the people of the impending judgment to come, yet the masses chose not listen. Today is no different. Scoffers hear the plea yet reason to themselves "I was here yesterday, I will be here tomorrow. Why all the fuss?" We know that God is "longsuffering, not willing for any to perish", but do not try the patients of God and the grace he has extended (II Pet. 3:10). The final day of judgment will come suddenly upon those who have not been watching. A true child of God

is continually preparing for that Great day coming.

God's judgment day will not be a "jury trial" wherein we can "argue our case" to our peers. Such will be a day of reckoning, sentencing, and vindication of God's justice as every knee bows before Him (Phil. 2:9-10). It will be a time of forever separating the righteous from the unrighteous; blessing for some and terror and punishment for others (Matt. 25:32; II Thess. 2:6-9). On that day, we will meet our personal responsibility. Each of us will stand before the judge alone. Parents, spouses, children, and friends will not be able to assist us. We will face the all seeing, all knowing all powerful God with terror if we have not been faithful to His instructions. The dividing line will be simple—our obedience or disobedience to His commands. Think about it – you are making the choices and decisions for your eternal dwelling place each and every day of your life. Are they obedient or contrary to God's Law?

The judgment will reveal a surprising standard for many. NO religious traditions/creeds, NO man's "think so" or feelings will judge us on that day. Man's version of honesty, sincerity, or moral excellence will not matter. Only the standard of God's Word will be our judge (John 12:48). We may attempt to argue with His word today, but there will be no arguing on that day. There will be no mistaking His message and commands at that time.

The judgment will most surprise "religious" people. On that day, the "church of your choice" will be NO choice! There will be NO "one doctrine is as good as another"; NO "just different paths all going to the same place"! All who have taught and believed such false doctrines of men will realize **God's truth DOES matter.** How sad to have followed and practice erroneous "religion" for an entire lifetime to be "rewarded" by hearing "Depart from me, I never knew you" (Matt. 7:21-23). How tragic to think oneself to be right in man's eyes, only to come to judgment and suddenly realize we allowed ourselves to believe a lie (Matt. 15:13).

In view of what will happen on the judgment day, will you be surprised? We CAN realize judgment is real, sure, know His purpose, and be watching for such a day ONLY by adhering to His standard alone. God has done all He can do to help us avoid condemnation...The rest is up to us. Do you want Him as bad as He wants you? Then humble yourself to day and be obedient to Him today and begin preparing for life everlasting. Your eternal, forever, without end home in Heaven or Hell hangs in the balance.

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"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

21st CENTURY TRUTHS is published by the Glass Street Church of Christ for the express purpose of holding up the Bible as God's complete word for mankind today, and encouraging people to read and practice a committed faith in it. We would like to welcome you to our services and want you to know that there is a conservative, non-denominational, New Testament church, using God's 1st century truths, meeting nearby.

The church meets at its *new* location 1/2 mile east of intersection of Gordon Drive and Stone Avenue (across from Western Iowa Tech.) at 4800 Stone Avenue, Sioux City, Iowa. You are invited to visit any of our Bible Studies or worship assemblies. For information, you may write the address listed, email, or call (712) 274-1000.

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