

Justice Will Prevail: God's Promise Through Paul

God's Promise:

"For God has set a day when he will judge the world." (Acts 17:31)

My Promise:

I will respect God's justice and delight in God's grace.

OPENING

The Great White Throne. Each word matters. Great because God will dispense the weightiest of verdicts: eternal destiny. His judgment seat does not litigate petty quarrels or trifling issues. His judgment deals with capital crimes, not misdemeanors. He will issue sentences, not of days, decades, or millennia...but eternity. White because its opinions are pure and perfect. God judges with complete knowledge and precision. Throne because its verdict is final. This is not a trial, but a sentencing. In a trial, the judge discovers and evaluates the facts. God needs no further evidence. His throne is great with significance, white with integrity and absolute in authority. From his throne Jesus will forever balance the scales of fairness. "Judgment Day" is an unpopular term. We dislike the image of a great hour of reckoning. We disdain judgment but we value justice, yet the second is impossible without the first. One can't have justice without judgment.

Bible Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

ONE CANNOT HAVE JUSTICE WITHOUT JUDGEMENT – Matthew 25:31

Matthew 25 is one of those chapters that deal with the last days in the gospels. In this chapter we see something very important. There can be no justice without a judgment. In the case of the Great White Throne, only one person can judge on that day. He who was made judgment for us, is now seated as the judge. It is that easy and that impacting. This one who judges is none other than the one who would be crucified a few days after having made these final declarations to his followers. Look at what Acts 17:31 says, "For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

Our journey in life is directing us toward that day. The question is, "How are we going to face it?" Are we going to have respected God's justice and delighted in his grace? I hope so. Romans 2:16 describes it in the following way, "This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares."

There is no doubt, the Christ that we have accepted as Lord and Savior, we now must recognize him as Judge. In this capacity, Jesus has the right to dictate the judgment owed from the Great White Throne. It is time to account for our deeds with God. Revelation 6:17 says, "For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

The Bible describes it in this manner, Revelation 14:7, La Biblia lo describe de esta otra manera, Apocalipsis 14:7, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water." The tame lamb is the the roaring Lion!

WE WILL ALL BE UNITED ON THAT GREAT DAY – Matthew 25:32

The Great White Throne will not be alone. It will be surrounded by people. Every human being who has lived throughout history will be brought together on that day. The more ardent believer and most rebellious unbeliever. The Bible does not only describe it in the lips of the Great Judge, but it also describes it in a very graphic manner: And all the nations will be united before him..." (Verse 32)

1. Revelation 11:18 says, "The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great- and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

There is nobody who will escape from this day. The famous and the unknown, the faithful and the unfaithful, the saints and the demons, everyone will give an account before the Great White Throne.

2. - 1 Corinthians 3:13 - "His work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work."

This meeting has several parts. The most impressive will be the one that will reveal each person's work. In and of itself, Paul says that it will be "evident". In other words, everybody will see it. The Lord, who is the most important person will see this and will be sitting on the throne!

3. - James 5:5 - "You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter."

Incredible! James describes this day as "the day of slaughter." He also tells us of some of the things that will be judged on that day before the Great White Throne. The way that people have lived upon the earth. We would like to say that the things that bring us pleasure and we enjoy to a degree and are converted into the main reason for living, now have become the cruelest witnesses against us.

4. - Revelations 20:11-12 - "Then I saw a great White throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

Neither heaven or the earth can run from this day. That day is established by Jesus and revealed by John. The only thing that is missing is that it arrive. The books are still taking note of our works in life, be they good or bad. Some do not believe that they will be judged. Others try to prepare for that day in the best way possible. There are some who believe that the one sitting on the throne is Just. In his justice, his judgement will be faithful.

ON THE RIGHT HAND OR ON THE LEFT? WE DECIDE AND HE WILL EXECUTE – Matthew 25:33-46

1. – ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE – THE SHEEP – 33-40

The believer has is responsible for this Christian walk. The Christian life is not only to “confess” our faith. Our faith gives visible fruit. Jesus speaks directly to those who have decided to be like their Lord. The quality of the Christian life has merit when that day comes. It is not by obligation but by nature. We are compassionate because that is our new identity in Christ.

A sheep cannot go against its eternal nature. Pslams 100:3 says, “Know that the Lord is God. It is he, who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.” As sheep of his pasture, we will act in that manner. We have NO other alternative. The declaration then, is to be expected. “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.” (34)

We are therefore not surprised when he says, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” (verso 40)

2. – TO THE LEFT – THE GOATS - 41-45

The unbeliever shows his walk by his works as well. Life apart from Christ is evident. It is NOT so much about what the unbeliever says, but rather about what he does. (In this group is also included those who say they are “believers” but are really not.) The Day of the Great White Throne will bring to light this truth.

In the same way, that a “sheep” acts according to his nature, so a goat also. On that day of judgment and justice of God they will be officially shown. The declaration is not to wait, “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.” (Verse 41)

3. HE WILL DO IT

All of these “sentencings” are the results of a verdict that had been done before the people had decided to give water to the thirsty or to cover a naked body. In John 3:18 it says, “Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already” The sentencing of Matthew 25 is in and of itself, the results of the faith or the lack of faith that each person had. Their actions dictated their faith. He who executes the sentencing is he who was

converted in the sacrifice for our “unbelief” or faith. It depends on us if we are going to believe or not in Him. When this happens, the sentencing has already been done!

JUST JUDGEMENT – Matthew 25:46

What is a just judgement? This one, “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” (Verse 46) It is not difficult to understand the just judgement. Those who do not understand it, are those who do not understand the difference between just and unjust. God is just!