

# WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

Fundamentals of the Faith

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## **LESSON #30 — JESUS IS OUR JUDGE**

In this particular portion of our lesson we're talking about: What does Jesus mean to the Christian? What is our relationship to Him and His relationship to us? Thus far, in our study of this subject, we have seen that He is God, Lord, Christ, King, and our great and merciful and faithful High Priest.

The next point that we want to talk about, showing the relationship between Jesus and the Christian, is that He will be our judge. Let's look at some passages of Scripture that talk about Jesus as our Judge. And let's meditate on these things found in the Word of God.

The first passage we want to look at is in the book of Acts, in the 17th chapter, verse 30, and 31. Acts 17, verse 30, and 31. Here we read, "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." God talks about the times before, the prior times, in Old Testament times, He overlooked some of those things. But now, Luke, as the inspired author of Acts makes a sharp contrast. Now, what does God require of all people? He says He requires all men everywhere. That's universal language. That includes me, and it includes you. All of us. To do what? To repent, that is, have a change of mind, that leads to a change in behavior, based upon our godly sorrow, our godly sorrow for our sins. But why is it necessary for us to repent? One reason is given in verse 31. He said, "Because he has appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness." God is going to judge the world. All accountable, or responsible people, all people who have the ability to think and reason and act, all will be judged by God. But He says that He's going to execute that judgment through the Man whom He has ordained. But who is that Man? He says He has given assurance of this fact, in that he is raised Him from the dead. Who did he do that for? He raised Jesus. So God, the Father, is going to judge all of the world, in righteousness, in justice, through that Man whom He has appointed, Jesus, the Christ. You and I then are going to have to face that day. We need to be prepared to stand before Jesus. And we see that very clearly in the next passage of scripture that we want to look at.

This one found in 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 10, and verse 11. 2 Corinthians 5, verse 10 and verse 11. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or evil. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences." Notice what God said through His inspired spokesman, Paul. We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. When He use the word "must," that tells us that it's an obligation, something that we're not going to escape. We can miss appointments in this world, but not this one. We will all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

And he says that we're going to be judged upon the things that we have done in our body. What does that mean? That means that we're going to be judged upon what we've done while we're here on this earth. Once we die, and our spirit leaves our body, there will be no change, in our ultimate judgment, our ultimate destiny. God will have decided at that point where we're going to spend eternity, and nothing anybody can do, will change that. No one can pray us out of the place where we will be. No one can be baptized for us to be washing away our sins. Once that is done, once we have left this world, our ultimate destiny is sealed, there will be no second chance. Satan would love for us to believe that. But there is no hope of a second chance given to us in the Scripture.

So we're going to receive the things done in our body. And he says, according to whether they are good or evil. Well, how is God going to determine what is good and evil? Well, we know He uses His standard, the Word. So our lives are going to be compared to the Word of God to determine whether our life can be characterized as that which is good, or that which is evil, in the eyes of God.

And notice how Paul talks in verse 11. He says, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." That day of judgment, if we've lived lives of disobedience, and rebellion against God, will be a day of terror. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth, great crying and weeping. Because the people who have been rebellious will know that they are resigned to live eternity in the flaming fires of hell. That is something that God wants to bring terror to our minds. Now, we know that love is the best motivator. When you and I act out of love, we do better, and we do more for the Lord. But there's no denying that fear is a motivator. And it is something that should bring terror to our hearts, as he says, here. It will be something, the terror of the Lord, will be something that will be feared and should be feared. And We need to make sure then, that we are prepared for that day.

Think about Paul, in the book of Acts when he reasoned with Felix, and what he did. The Bible says that He reasoned with Felix concerning righteousness and judgment to come. And the Bible says, "Felix trembled." Paul preached what he taught here. What he said here. That is, he preached judgment and that judgment brought trembling to the heart of those who refused to obey the Lord. So we're all going to stand before Christ. And you think about that, too, please, for a moment. I'm not going to be able to stand before some other man. I'm not going to be able to put stand before someone that I can fool, someone that I can make an excuse to. I'm going to have to stand before Jesus, who lived in the flesh just as we live in the flesh, who was tempted in every way that we're tempted, and yet without sin, Who knows the very thoughts and intents of our heart. All excuses, all alibis, all reasons we might offer will evaporate on that day, they will be of no value. Then we ought to live in such a way that we always remember that judgment day is coming. So why not do it right the first time; strive to do right all the time while we're here, so that we'll be prepared for that day.

And then another passage of scripture on this subject in the book of Romans, in the second chapter, and verse 16. Romans chapter 2, verse 16. "In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel." Here we see that God, the Father, will execute that judgment through His beloved Son Jesus Christ. It will be according to the gospel, that is, the gospel tells us that that is the case. And we will be judged by the gospel if we've lived in the New Testament era. And notice one other important point there, that God

gives us through the Apostle Paul: He'll judge the secrets of men. That's like what Solomon said in Ecclesiastes chapter 12, verse 13 and 14. The secrets of men, the things that we try to hide from others will be exposed, will be laid open, on that day, if they haven't been covered by the blood of Jesus.

We need to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present evil world, if we want to face the Lord in judgment, in the prepared way that we want to be, so that we can spend eternity in heaven. So we need to keep in mind, Jesus is our judge, we will stand before Him in the judgment day.

It's an appropriate point at this time since we've looked at several facets of the relationship between Jesus and each one of us as Christians, to go back and briefly summarize what we've said up to this point. Let's look at several points. We've seen that Jesus is God, deity, has divine characteristics, and attributes (John 1, verses 1-3). Secondly, we saw that Jesus is Lord and Christ from Acts chapter 2, verse 36. He is our Master, He is the Savior, the Messiah. Then in Revelation, chapter 17, verse 14, He is our King, the one who has the right and authority to rule over us as His subjects. Then in Hebrews 4, verse 14, He is our Great High Priest, merciful, and faithful. One upon whom we can depend, and One who is filled full of mercy. And then in this passage in Acts, chapter 17, verse 30 and 31, and the other passages that we've just studied, He is our Judge. We need to be having those things in mind, rejoicing in the beautiful relationship that exists between us and the Lord Jesus Christ, and also living soberly, in mind of the fact that we will face Him in judgment.