

Theme: All humans will stand before God's judgment throne, and only those who trust in Christ will enter the new heavens and earth.

I. Intro – Long Series – How Do We Live?

- A. We have been in this series for 6 months
- B. Remind of a key point: living with eternity in view
- C. Last section – living with eternal perspective
- D. Today – I must remind of central judgment

II. The Judge – The Awesome God

- A. Note awesome description of God
 - 1. Great white throne (v11)
 - 2. Earth and sky flee from His glory (v11)
- B. The Awesomeness of God
 - 1. Jesus on the White horse – Rev 19:11-16
 - 2. Consuming fire – Ps 50:3; Is 66:15; Mal 3:2; Heb 12:29
 - 3. A dreadful thing – Heb 10:30-31

III. The Accused – All Humanity

- A. Dead, great & small, sea, death, Hades (v12-13)
- B. All judged at resurrection (Rom 14:10-12; Jn 5:28-29)

IV. The Charge – Our Evil Deeds

- A. Books of works are opened (v12; Muslim angels)
- B. God will judge every
 - 1. Action (Eccl 12:14; Rom 2:6)
 - 2. Word (Mat 12:36)
 - 3. Secret thoughts (Rom 2:16)
- C. Nothing is hidden! (Heb 4:13)

V. The Verdict: Guilty

- A. Thrown into the lake of fire (v15)
- B. None declared righteous by works (Rom 3:19-20)
- C. Our works can only bring condemnation

VI. Our Only Hope – Christ

- A. The book of life (v12,15; 13:8)
- B. Wicked justified by faith in Christ (Rom 4:5)

VII. Conclusion & Summary

- A. A plea to turn to Christ
 - 1. I plead with all to turn to Christ
 - 2. There is no other refuge from the fire of wrath

3. I am his ambassador – be reconciled to God
- B. A warning from the days of Noah
1. Peter likens coming judgment to Noah's flood
 2. People heard Noah – and ignored
 3. Gospel proclaimed everywhere in America
 4. Oh the judgment that awaits those who refuse
- C. A word of assurance for believers
1. If you are in Christ you have nothing to fear
 2. Your sins have been paid in full
 3. No terrors before God or law (A Debtor to Mercy Alone)
 4. Thanks be to God for His mercy!

Preparing for the Judgment

Revelation 20:11-15

September 23, 2007

In Christ Alone or A Debtor to Mercy Alone

2 Corinthians 13:14

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. 13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. Revelation 19:11-16

3 Our God comes and will not be silent; a fire devours before him, and around him a tempest rages. Psalm 50:3

15 See, the LORD is coming with fire, and his chariots are like a whirlwind; he will bring down his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. Isaiah 66:15

2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. Malachi 3:2

Our "God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:29

For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. Hebrews 10:30-31

10 You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. 11 It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" 12 So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. Romans 14:10-12

"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out-- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. In 5:28-29

14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:14

6 God "will give to each person according to what he has done." Rom 2:6

36 But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. Matthew 12:36

16 This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares. Romans 2:16

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. Romans 3:19-20

8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast-- all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world. Revelation 13:8

5 However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. Romans 4:5