

Jesus Returns as Judge!

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Jesus will return as He promised—and He has been given the responsibility from the Father to judge every soul on earth. He will make His decision based on their conduct in life—whether they believed in Him and put their faith in Him—or not. *John 5:22* “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son.”

We can be confident that a person would have made eternal life if they put real faith in God and have followed the teaching of the New Testament—however, only God knows a person’s heart at the time of their passing—and it is the spiritual condition of the person that determines their destiny.

The thief on the cross was *forgiven* and *given* Paradise because He believed in his heart that Jesus was God—*Luke 23:43* “To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” That is encouraging to know—God is so merciful that He is ready to *forgive* and *accept* anyone in a moment.

No one escapes coming before the Judge of everyone. We will either meet Him as our *Savior*, or we will meet Him as our *Judge*. We can meet Him with *joy* and *gratitude*—or we can meet Him in *fear* and *regret*. It is a huge responsibility on us, but everyone will have to choose and to *meet* the requirements for Paradise—*John 6:29* “That ye

believe on him whom he hath sent”—or to not meet the requirements by *not* believing Jesus!

There is *no one* who does not *need* forgiveness because everyone has sinned. Satan makes it easy to do good outward things but still not have a right inward *attitude* toward God and everyone else. Pride and rebellion can make us guilty before the Judge.

The publican *Luke 18:13*—“*Would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.*” If he *kept* that right attitude and *kept* his *trust* on God, he would be *assured* of Paradise.

Jesus said *Luke 18:14* “*I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.*” We must be *justified* to enter God’s kingdom—and *pride* can prevent our entrance!

Jesus then explained what *attitude* enters the Kingdom. Some children were brought to Jesus, but the disciples rebuked those who did—thinking the Master did not want to be bothered with children as He had more important people to see.

But Jesus told them—*Luke 18:16*, “*Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. 17 Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.*” Since Jesus will Judge everyone, His words carry conviction.

Millions of people are honest; love their family; and treat people fairly—but the Judge of everyone did not say that *that* is what qualifies us for Heaven. When asked what a person must *do* to qualify for the Kingdom *John 6:28*, Jesus did *not* say—be honest, love the family, and be kind to everyone—but He *did* say *John 6:29* “*This is above all the thing that God requires—that you should be believers in Him whom He has sent.*”

Believers in Jesus would *listen* to Him and would *obey* His commands on all life issues! And Jesus told us to *Matthew 5:44* “*Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; 45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven.*”

To be *children* of our Father in Heaven, we would have to be *trusting* on the atoning Blood of Jesus—for healing without medical help; for finances without saving accounts; and for a forgiving spirit toward all who have ever sinned against us—that is what we *pray* for every *day*—a loving and forgiving spirit.

We are instructed *Titus 3:2* “*To speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. 3 For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.*”

All slander, gossip, and criticism of fellow believers or of anyone, is *speaking evil* of them; It does *not* bring peace; It is *not* being gentle; and it is *not* showing *humility* toward people.

We have all disobeyed the words of Jesus in some way; we have all been *deceived* by the devil, which led to *malice and envy, hateful and hating one another*—but we must be willing to move *beyond the basics* of faith to the point of showing divine love toward *everyone*.

Titus 3:4 “*But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior.*”

Everyone needs forgiveness—the *moral* person and the *immoral* person; the *model* citizen and the *convicted* felon—everyone! Nicodemus was a

religious and respected man in his community. We would *think* that he could stand before God justified, but Jesus told him John 3:3 “*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*”

To be *born again* would be to *follow the Lord’s instructions*. It would mean to be reborn to a renewed life of *faith* and *trust* on the atoning Blood of Jesus. Nicodemus was told—John 3:14 “*As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.*” He meant lifted up on a cross and shedding His Blood to make forgiveness possible for all people. We could then *trust* in faith on that *atoning sacrifice*—and thus be justified before Him!

The Samaritan woman at Sychar had been married several times and was currently in an unscriptural relationship. Both she and Nicodemus needed to give their *life* totally to Jesus. Jesus told her that “*Salvation is of the Jews,*” John 3:22. The *hope* that she and Nicodemus *both* have is the *forgiveness* offered to every *believer*. John 3:15 “*Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*”

The Samaritan woman and Nicodemus had both *met* Jesus and *believed* in Him. It is an important reminder that *we all* must really *know* Jesus and be willing to put our *faith* on His atoning *sacrifice*. Everyone must *know* the *Way*, the *Truth*, and have the *Life* of Jesus dwelling within them John 14:6 because no one comes to the Father *except through Him*.

Revelation 20:12 “*And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*”

No one gets a free pass—everyone meets Jesus face to face. Every last person will stand before the Lord—the sinner and saint; the self-righteous and

the faith-righteous; the willing believer and the procrastinator—will *all* be at the Great White Throne Judgment.

Millions put things off until later—or they put off making a decision about trusting God until later. Felix the governor would not admit he needed a Savior, and he put off the decision to repent and give his life to God when he was given the opportunity.

The apostle spoke the truth to him—Acts 24:25 “*Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, ‘Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.’*”

But a convenient time never *came*, and the governor never surrendered his *life* to God. *That* is the prevalent problem of today and it is serious. Millions never *have* a convenient time and never *commit* their life to God and never *accept* Jesus as their Master—never *admitting* nor *believing* He is John 14:6 “*The way, the truth, and the life,*” therefore, He will be their Judge.

Many believe the Bible is true and that Jesus is *the way* to God. And one of these days, they say, they will get right with Him. Millions say: *One of these days I’ll go to church; One of these days I’ll change my attitude; One of these days I’ll forgive that person*, but somehow, those days never come—and it *can* be *eternally too late!*

No one would *ever* want to hear—from the Judge who is returning to this earth, and maybe soon—Matthew 7:23 “*I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*”

There are millions who go to church; carry a Bible and sing hymns; and they may pray through the day about things concerning life. Many know *about* God but do not really *know* Him as their *Healer, Supplier, and Teacher* of spiritual lessons on how to live a life of trust.

Matthew 7:21 “*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*”

22 “*Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity [doers of wickedness; practice lawlessness!].*”

These are people who had done many outwardly good deeds—but Jesus calls these things *iniquity*, because they did *not do* them by *trusting Him* to be *able* to do them. Their trusting in a *good thing* became a *bad thing*. They needed to really trust *God* for eternal life; they needed to trust in the shed *Blood* of the cross to enter the Kingdom.

Only those who *sincerely* trust in the atoning Blood of Jesus will get to Heaven. A true believer would certainly *do* good works, help others, be kind and generous, and would not slander the reputation of others—but that good life must also include a trusting faith for healing; financial trust; a forgiving attitude; and a day-by-day walk with Jesus in humility of spirit.

Good works have no *merit* to pay for our sins—only the *Blood of Jesus* can *pay the price* of iniquity. Good *deeds* would be a *by-product* of the Christian life; *not* the value paid for Paradise.

In speaking about recognizing *true* believers and *false* Christians, Jesus said Matthew 7:15 “*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits.*”

The Judge of everyone is speaking—we must *listen* to His warnings!



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