

Judgment

Hebrews 4:12-13

08/16/2020

The thought of God's judgment makes us uncomfortable. But truth that hurts is better than a lie that comforts.

- I. Judgment is a past reality
 - A. God judged Lucifer and the fallen angels for their sin
 - B. God judged the sin of Adam and Eve banning them from Eden
 - C. God judged the sinful world through the great flood
 - D. God judged the disobedient people at the tower of Babel
 - E. God judged the wicked people of Canaan with the armies of Israel (Deuteronomy 9:1-5)
 - F. God judged the idolatrous northern kingdom of Israel through Assyria (Amos 4:6-12)
 - G. God judged the idolatrous southern kingdom of Judah through Babylon
 - H. God judged Jesus for the sins of all of humanity
- II. Judgment is a present reality (Romans 1:18)
 - A. We can judge ourselves and confess all known sins to God (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)
 - B. We can refuse to judge ourselves and force God to step in (Hebrews 10:26-31)
- III. Judgment is a future reality
 - A. All Believers will be judged at the Bema of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)
 1. The focus is not punishment for our sins (Romans 8:1)
 2. The focus is on rewards for our service
 - B. Living Israelites will be judged at the beginning of the Kingdom (Matthew 24:36-51)
 - C. Living Gentiles will be judged at the beginning of the Kingdom (Matthew 25:31-46)
 - D. All Unbelievers will be judged at the end of the Kingdom (Revelation 20:11-15)
- IV. Judgment is a universal reality (Hebrews 9:27)

Sin is the ruin and misery of the soul; it is destructive in its nature; and if God should leave it without restraint, there would need nothing else to make the soul perfectly miserable...There are the black clouds of God's wrath now hanging directly over your heads, full of the dreadful storm, and big with thunder; and were it not for the restraining hand of God they would immediately burst forth upon you...The bow of God's wrath is bent, and the arrow made ready on the string; and justice directs the bow to your heart, and strains at the bow: and it is nothing but the mere pleasure of God, and that of an angry God, without any promise or obligation at all, that keeps the arrow one moment from being made drunk with your blood. (Jonathan Edwards, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God", July 8, 1741)

So What?

- If we are honest, we know we deserve the full force of God's judgment and wrath.
- If we are honest, we admit there is really nothing we can do to avoid God's wrath.
- If we are honest, we know we don't deserve God's forgiveness found in Jesus Christ.
- If we are smart, we will accept God's offer of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus.