

Hope for Today

7 Reasons Why You cannot Lose in The Judgment

Judgment day...Who is looking forward to it? Looking at the following Bible texts that can cause us to be afraid.

- **Acts 17:31** - "Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world"
- **2 Corinthians 5:10** - "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of God"
- **Matthew 12:36** - "For every idle word men may speak, they will give an account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned"
- **1 Corinthians 4:5** - "The Lord...will bring to light the things which are hidden in darkness and will disclose the motives of the heart"

Judgment! A Scary prospect, if these warnings are all you have! But, first let's recap. What is God solving In the Judgment?

- Is it JUST that He needs to deal with us and our rebellion?
- No! There was a problem in God's universe before we got here!

In light of most people's fear of the judgment, look at the amazingly good news found in the following verse, that we have already dealt with. **Daniel 7:22**, "until the Ancient of Days came, and a **judgment was made in favour of the saints of the Most High,**" Imagine that, **Judgment was given in favour of the saints!**

Allow me to add a much bigger context. In Heaven, God's character was called into question! Questions were raised about God's worthiness to rule. And, it is in that context, that God brings His case to open court! Dr. Jiri Miskala makes a very perceptive observation that, "God is judged by how He judges!" If this is true, then the judgment is not primarily about us, but about God! Listen to what **Romans 3:4** says, "Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: "That You may be justified in Your words, **And may overcome when You are judged.**" Paul is saying that God is being judged by how He is handling the Salvation of man, and how He is handling the solution to this sin problem! It is amazing to think that God does nothing in secret when He faces the accusations of the Devil. **He brings the whole matter into open court, the heavenly court! He calls the Universe to judge whether He is worthy!**

And can I remind you of the centrality of the Cross, as KEY evidence in this case. Listen to a statement from the book **Evangelism**, pg. 190, "**The sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary.**" This is a stark reminder to us that what Christ has done at the Cross clarifies everything!

So, in the light of all of this, let me share with you **7 reasons why you cannot lose in the Judgment. And all involve Jesus!**

1. **Jesus is our Substitute. 2 Corinthians 5:21**, “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” He took our place. Listen to the following statement. **2 Selected Messages pg.32**, “We are not to be anxious about what Christ and God think of us, but about **what God thinks of Christ, our Substitute**. Ye are accepted in the Beloved.” Listen to the wonderful hope and grace in the following book, **Steps to Christ, pg.62**, “If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ's character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned.”
2. **He is our Advocate! He represents us! 1 John 2:1**, “And if anyone sins, **we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous**.” Thank God, that there is no case too tough for Him. **Hebrews 7:25**, “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them” Jesus stands as our Advocate in the Heavenly Courtroom, defending us, and His right to save us!
3. **He is also our Witness! Revelation 3:14**, “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, These things says the Amen, **the Faithful and True Witness**, the Beginning of the creation of God”. So, He not only defends us, but as the faithful and true Witness of our lives, He testifies for His people that we are His.
4. **He is the Judge! John 5:22 says**, “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son”. Dr. Jiri Moskala says in an article entitled “**The Gospel According to God’s Judgment: Judgment as Salvation**”, “But when He judges us again at the preadvent judgment, it means that His principal purpose is different: He secures legally our place in heaven, in front of the heavenly court for all eternity.” I am encouraged by what Daniel 7 tells me about the role of Christ in the Judgment. **Daniel 7:13**, “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, **One like the Son of Man**, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.” Daniel wants us to know that Jesus links His role in the judgment to His title “Son of man”! While He is “Son of God”, it appears that He wants us to know that as a member of the Godhead, He became man, and wishes to reassure us that He understands us!
5. **He is Refiner!** Not only will He represent and defend us, He will ensure that we are made spiritually clean! **Leviticus 16:30** “For on that day the priest shall make atonement for you, **to cleanse you, that you may be clean from all your sins** before the LORD”.
 - a. Remember the sequence that we discovered in the sacrifices for sin, related to the Sanctuary service.

- I. Day by day, the sinners would bring an animal sacrifice to the sanctuary. The person, who recognised their guilt would confess their sin over the lamb, thus, symbolically transferring his sin to the lamb. He would slay the innocent lamb, while the priest would catch the blood. Through numerous methods, the blood, in symbolic form, carrying the guilt and sin of the sinner, would be transferred to the sanctuary.
- II. But, on the day of atonement, the reverse would happen. Sin would be moved out of the temple, and placed on the head of the goat that was not killed; Azazel. This goat would carry the sins from the sanctuary out of the camp, into the wilderness. It was not killed. This symbolised the removal of sin not only from the people, but from the Universe. While Jesus (the Lamb) “paid” for our sins, ultimately it is Satan, symbolised by the scapegoat, Azazel, that takes the blame and responsibility for sin.

Malachi 3:2, “But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire And like launderers’ soap.”

Ezekiel 36:27 promises, “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

God promises that He will refine us and cause us to delight in obeying Him! But this is a process that begins this side of eternity. We are all “Under Construction”. Like the scene at building or renovation sites, there may be ugly sheeting covering the building and lots of mess, with materials going in and rubble coming out, BUT we never judge the building until opening day! In similar vein, we too are “works in progress”, and everyone will only see the finished product when God unveils it (us)!

6. **He is Vindicator! What does “Vindicate” mean? – “to clear someone of suspicion or blame!”** **Romans 16:19-20**, “I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple (innocent) concerning evil. And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.” God through His work in the judgment will not only justify His people, but will also, as a result, deal a death blow to Satan’s accusations. Satan will be defeated, together with all the evil and trouble he has caused us. Finally we will experience the promise of **Daniel 7:22**, “The Ancient of Days arrived to pass judgment in favour of the saints”.
7. **He Vindicates His Name! Ezekiel 36:32**, “Not for your sake do I do this,” says the Lord GOD” God will vindicate His own name in the Judgment. Listen to **Isaiah 61:3**, “That they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified”. This text reminds us that when we grow to represent our Heavenly Father, He gets the glory!

Finally because of what Christ achieves in the Judgment, there will finally be **AT-ONE-MENT!** That is the old English meaning of the word atonement. There will be reconciliation, and peace between God and His children!

As we conclude, some have asked, “but why does God need a Judgment?” God knows everything. What you believe went wrong in the Universe at the beginning will determine how you view everything in the Bible, as well as the judgment. Allegations were made against God. The following 3 amongst others:

- God is harsh, arbitrary and unjust.
- God cannot, and will not forgive.
- If He does forgive, mercy has destroyed justice!

In the life and death of Jesus and the heavenly Judgment, God’s character is vindicated. He sets the record straight about Himself. When we look at the story of Job, in the Old Testament, a story which deals with human suffering and God’s apparent silence, we see that 3 questions (albeit subtly) are asked of God.

- Does God really know His friends?
- Does God buy (bribe) His friends?
- Is God fit to rule/govern the Universe?

And we realise in the story, that it was not so much Job, who was on trial as God! Maybe that is what Revelation could be saying in **Revelation 14:7**, “Fear God and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come!” Not just the hour for God to judge, **but the hour when He gets judged!**

Ultimately, God leaves Himself open to scrutiny, in the WAY in which He judges. Dr. Jiri Moskala says it well, “**God is judged by HOW He judges!**” Remember what we read earlier in **Romans 3:4**, “Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: “That You may be justified in Your words, **And may overcome when You are judged.**” Another translation says, “That you may be justified in Your words, and prevail when You are judged.” Imagine that, God goes on “trial” before the universe and we have the privilege, like Job of defending His name!”

A parable Jesus told could be instructive, as we remember that works never nullify grace, but confirm its working. In **Matthew 18:21-35** Jesus tells a parable of a servant who owed his master a fortune, in an outstanding loan. When the master calls in the loan, the man pleads for more time. But the master graciously forgives the whole debt! But when he goes out, he finds a man that owed him a much, much smaller amount (Literally Billions vs thousands), and would not show the same grace shown to him! When his master discovers that, he is livid, and says in **Matthew 18:33**, “Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?” If anything, the judgement wishes to determine whether Grace has changed us! Through what Christ did for us at Calvary, **grace and Heaven are ours! Share it!**