

YOU MUST BE REBORN BY GOD

by Wayne D. Garton
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JUDGEMENT. WHY?

There is a great reluctance for people to think about the judgement of God!

As soon as the subject is raised, a lot of people simply "switch off". Others get angry and say that God is love and that His love extends to all. TRUE, but then they close the subject off from further discussion. Why is there such a negative reaction to the judgement of God?



Is it because people do not understand why He judges, or is it because they do not understand why our Saviour came in the first place?

To some the word "Judgement" conjures up emotions of a severe God who waits for Christians to make a mistake so that He can come down heavily upon them. That notion is formed through a lack of understanding of the love of God.

To others, judgement means condemnation! These people feel that if only they could witness better; be more loving; or do a host of other things; then they would be safe from His judgement. They are not absolutely sure of the truth that Jesus did not come to condemn us, but to save us.

CHAINS.

He wants you to break free from the chains of fear and condemnation that hold you back and stifle your faith. Condemnation is an insidious thing that destroys your joy of the Spirit in much the same way that cancer destroys healthy body tissue.

We doubt if you would disagree that God is perfect and mankind is not perfect, but what if we said that no human is perfect without repentance (a change of heart) and faith?

So if God is perfect and we are not, then there is a vast gap between us and we are judged as being guilty of not coming to His standard of perfection. We have not measured up alongside His perfection and therefore we are sinners by His standard.

But you might say, "that's not fair because the standard's too high and we can never reach it."

FAITH.

But that is NOT true! All of God's evidence says the exact opposite. We CAN reach His standard of perfection, but there is only one way to do it. And that's His way!

BY FAITH.



JUDGEMENT. HOW?

Jesus lived as all men should. His life was perfect, sinless and holy. At the appointed time at the end of His impeccable life, He took your sinfulness and your sins and the judgement due to you in His body on the cross and put it all to death. It is finished! He was resurrected from your sin having paid the price for it completely. That freedom from sin is in reality yours, if only you will believe that He achieved it for you. His righteousness is His gift to you!

JUDGEMENT. WHEN?

"Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." Acts 17/30-31

The standard by which the world is to be judged, is the righteousness of Jesus. Unless you have had a change of heart (repented) and come to Jesus to be reborn of His righteousness, then you are already under judgement. His life; His death; His resurrection; His free gift of righteousness judges all who will not believe in Him. This is the first judgement "For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see; and that those who see may become blind." Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things, and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say 'We see', your sin remains." John 9/39

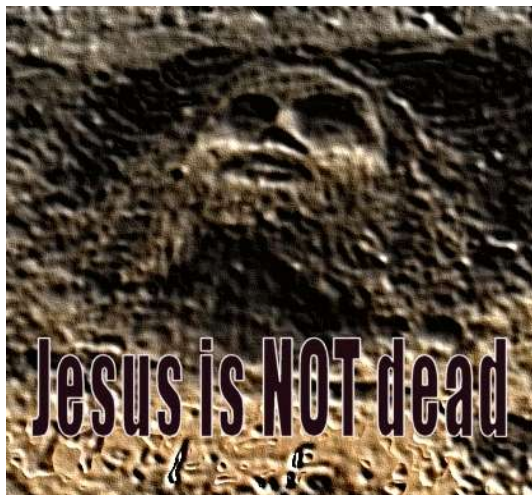
Jesus did not come to judge the world, but He came for judgement's sake.

The world was already judged as having failed to live to God's standard, and Jesus came to set the world free from this judgement. Can you see this? Perhaps these other words of Jesus will help.

"I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness. And if anyone hears My sayings, and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day." John 12/46-48

Have you believed Jesus yet? Are you righteous with His righteousness? Have you been born- again? If your answer is yes, you have passed through the first judgement!

GOD IS SPIRIT



"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and truth." John 4/24

This is a curious thing, but it is impossible to worship in spirit and in truth without first being born of the Spirit. HIS SPIRIT!

"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 3/5-6

Born of Water Born of Spirit

Old words, but ones that may contain a new meaning for you.

When you were born out of your ordinary parents, you were what Jesus called, born of water.

Your ordinary body cannot reach God, for God is Spirit and your body is flesh. Flesh cannot reach the place where God is, for all flesh is dead to things spiritual.

It is cut-off and separated from God, because every one of us including you has sinned. Sin puts a wall between the Lord and us and that wall cannot be removed by human endeavours. In this world each kind reproduces the same kind. Adam and Eve were sinners and their children were born with that tendency to sin bred into them. Nobody has to teach a child how to be naughty. Rebellion comes naturally. **We are all born sinners.**

In order to communicate with God we must "die" to the flesh and be reborn into a different kingdom of the Spirit. And this must take place while we still live! Strange isn't it, but this is the way of the new birth. The new birth gives us a new, sinless nature for it is born from God. By the old birth we are children of our natural parents children of the flesh. But by the new birth we are children of our God; children of the Spirit.

There has only ever been one who bridged the gulf between flesh and spirit and that was Jesus. Therefore there is no other way to come to God but to use the bridge that He has provided for you. Turn from your old life that lives to please the flesh, and accept a new life that lives to please Jesus.

You are a sinner (unless you have already surrendered to Him) and your life that pleases your flesh is revolting to God. But don't take our word for it, what does God say?

'This, then, is what has happened. Sin made its entry into the world through one man, and through sin, death. The entail of sin and death passed on to the whole human race, and no one could break it for no one was himself free from sin Adam, the first man, foreshadows in some degree the man who was to come. But the gift of God through Christ is a very different matter from the "account rendered" through the sin of Adam.

For while as a result of one man's sin death by natural consequence became the common lot of men, it was by the generosity of God, the free giving of the grace of the one man Jesus Christ, that the love of God overflowed for the benefit of all men.

Nor is the effect of God's gift the same as the effect of that one man's sin. For in the one case one man's sin brought its inevitable judgement, and the result was condemnation. But, in the other, countless men's sins are met with the free gift of grace, and the result is justification before God.

For if one man's offence meant that men should be slaves to death all their lives, it is a far greater thing that through another man, Jesus Christ, men are by their acceptance of His more than sufficient grace and righteousness, should live their lives victoriously.

We see, then, that as one act of sin exposed the whole race of men to God's judgement and condemnation, so one act of perfect righteousness presents all men freely acquitted in the sight of God. One man's disobedience placed all men under the threat of condemnation, but one man's obedience has the power to present all men righteous before God. Now we find that the law keeps slipping into the picture to point the vast extent of sin. Yet, though sin is shown to be wide and deep, thank God His grace is wider and deeper still!

The whole outlook changes-sin used to be the master of men and in the end handed them over to death; now grace is the ruling factor, with its purpose making men right with God and its end the bringing of them to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Now what is our response to be?

Shall we sin to our heart's content and see how far we can exploit the grace of God? What a terrible thought! Romans 5/12 and 5/15-6/3.(J.B.P.)

ESCAPE FROM SIN.

There is only one way to escape from the dreadful hold that sin has on you. Try as hard as you are able, you cannot stop yourself from sinning. Sin is born into you, and is greater than your ability to control it. The only way out is through Him. Jesus died on the cross for your sake! Sinless God, perfect and complete, He who knew no sin, became sin so that we could escape its dominion.

"We implore you on Christ's behalf. Be reconciled to God. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Cor.5/21-22 (N.I.V.)"

You can become the quality of God! That is what it means to be born again. To be born from the perfect seed of His Divine quality. You become a new spiritual creation and your new spirit is made spotless. It is righteous. Even the righteousness of God. This new righteousness is a gift of love from Him to you. Don't be fooled! Without His righteousness you will never get into His presence. You will suffer the consequences of your sin. You will be judged by God Himself and found unworthy. Regardless of how hard you have tried to live a good life. Regardless of how often you have been to church. Regardless of all self-achievements, your destination is hell! Regardless of who you are, you must be born again. Your spirit must be born out of God's own righteousness and only He can create the new birth.

Jesus was made to be sin on the cross, bearing your sin in His righteous body, for your sake. Taking this sin, He then paid the full price so that you would not have to. And having paid the full penalty for your sin, He was resurrected from it, so that you too could be resurrected from it. He bore your judgement for you. God, Himself took the judgement He had against you in His body so that you could be free. The sacrifice has already been made, if you will only acknowledge your own sinfulness and turn from it.

The gift of righteousness is free, if you can believe that

He took your sin on the cross and paid the penalty and rose out of that sin. He did it for you. Will you surrender your life to Him and believe His work on the cross? If you are not born-again supernaturally you will go to hell. there is no escape! Listen to the same word from out of the Roman Catholic Bible.

Free Gift.

"Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because EVERYONE HAS SINNED!" Romans 5/12

Hear it in the King James Bible. **"As by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that - ALL HAVE SINNED!"**

The Good News version does not let you off any lighter either. **"Sin came into the world through one man, and his sin brought death with it. As a result, death spread to the whole human race, because ALL MEN SINNED!"**

The gift of eternal life is yours, if you will only see that Jesus had to die for you, because you are a sinner. You are wretched without Him! You are wicked without Him! You will go to hell without Him, for that is what you deserve. This may be your last chance to accept Him before you die, so face it now.

Don't Run!

Don't run from it for He's calling you now.

Not tomorrow, not in a year's time, but right now.

You must make a decision before death and you don't know when that will be.

This will be the best decision you have ever made ...

Fire Lights Up a DARK, DARK NIGHT. It was about midday, but darkness came over the whole countryside until three in the afternoon, for the sun's light was eclipsed. The veil in the Temple sanctuary was split in two. Then Jesus gave a great cry and said, 'Father, I commend My spirit into your hands.' And with these words. He expired." Luke 23/44-46 (J.B.P.)

It's the grandest moment of passion ever recorded in the history of mankind. Our God, and Bridegroom to be. Our Redeemer and our hope for eternity. The whole of creation waits on tip-toes. God has come to earth in our feeble frame, in our frail likeness, in a body like ours made from the dust. And here He is poised on the brink of facing the sting of sin. DEATH!

It's not His sin bringing the Divine verdict, but His Bride's sin. He shouldn't be on that cross. He's taken her place and her sin. The "Pure" is struggling with her vile impurity. The "Just" is absorbing her injustices. The "Lover" is tormented by her hatred. The "Faith" is wretched with her unbelief. The "Word" is burdened with her blasphemy. The "Eternal" is facing her death. The moment has arrived. His body and mind are full to overflowing with the pain and torment of mankind's rejection of the Almighty. God is bridging the unbridgeable. The vast gulf between God and man is being crossed forever. He is timeless is poised on the brink of time, and suddenly we hear Him cry out. In a man's body; in a man's language; on man's earth; for mankind's sake.... He cries out, "Father, I commend My spirit into your hands."

These words have rung down through the ages dripping with mercy and compassion. Not, "Father, I commend My body into your hands." It's the salvation of the eternal He is assuring on our behalf. It's the eternal God rescuing us eternally.

And what a spectacle it is proving to be for all the hosts of hell gathering around to watch and destroy. Can this be the eternal God, poised on the brink of extinction on mankind's behalf. Can this eternal God be surrendering His eternal Spirit to the consequences of rebellion? Oh Yes. Absolutely! And with that simple heartrending prayer on our behalf, He guarantees the salvation of all those who choose to identify with Him from that time forth. To identify with Him in His death and to identify with Him in His resurrection. His prayer is our prayer. His salvation is our salvation, and if His Spirit comes back from hell, then we too will be free from its dominion. If He rises from the dead, then we too will one day. But if He doesn't, then all is lost! Nevertheless the appeal has gone out to the highest court and to the highest throne in heaven and on earth.

"Almighty God, into Your hands I commend My spirit"



Did He secure the victory for us? Psalm 16 has the fantastic answer, and Peter preached this very Psalm at Pentecost.....

"And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. For David says of Him, 'I was always beholding the Lord in My presence; for He is at My right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore My heart was glad and My tongue exulted: Moreover My flesh also will abide in hope; because You will not abandon My soul to Hades (Hell), nor allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. You have made known to Me the ways of life; You will make Me full of gladness with Your presence.'" Acts 2/22,24-27

Just so you know who Peter was talking about, he said,

"Men of Israel, listen to me. I speak of Jesus of Nazareth.....".

Oh yes, the prayer of Jesus was answered, for He was not abandoned to hell. However, the incredible thing is that the salvation of His Spirit also led to the salvation of His body. His flesh did not undergo decay during death. The salvation on our behalf was complete. Body, soul and spirit. Oh what a victory! Oh what God! Oh what love, that He should die for you and me; that He should give His all that we could go free!

OUR HOPE OF GLORY.

"God has allowed us to know the secret of His plan, and it is this: He purposes in His sovereign will that ALL HUMAN HISTORY SHALL BE CONSUMMATED IN CHRIST, that everything that exists in Heaven or Earth shall find its perfection and fulfilment in Him." Ephesians 1/9-10 (N.I.V.)

This is the hope we have been called to. We each have a tremendous part to play. In Him, We each have a share in His inheritance! In Him, we find perfection and fulfilment! In Him we find rest and safety! In Him, we share in the things eternal! In Him, we find security and an end to striving and fear. Will He not keep us safe if we totally surrender to Him? Of course He will! In Him the promises of God find their fulfilment, but note that it's in Him and only in Him. Not in going about your life your way, living to please yourself or your boss or your family, but living your life in Him. In His will, in His time, in His manner!

THE GREAT HOPE.

It is extremely important to realise the great hope to which He is calling you. This world; it's fleeting pleasures; its bodily comforts; its jobs; its security; its wealth; is passing away to be replaced by unspeakable riches and permanent glory. We simply cannot imagine what is in store for us when He returns. You would not cling to the security of this world if you could but catch a glimpse of what is coming for you. You would beg God to purify you so that you could be counted worthy to share in His inheritance. His love for us is so great. His mercy is so abundant. His riches are so unsearchable. His glory is even so dazzling, it blinded Paul. Better to be blinded by His glory, than blinded by the sin of the world. What a God that He cares enough about you to cleanse you from the filth of the world. What a hope and what a God that you may share His eternal life-with Him.



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