

Judgement Will Come

Revelation 20:1-15

Big Idea: "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." (Heb 9:27) Your name is either in the Lamb's Book of Life or it is not. Today is the day of salvation. Trust Christ alone — not your works.

Main Points

1. Every person will one day stand before God in judgment, but believers and unbelievers face different judgments.
2. Satan will be completely bound during Christ's thousand-year reign, unable to deceive or accuse.
3. Those who are in Christ will reign with him on the earth for a thousand years in resurrected, glorified bodies.
4. The great white throne judgment is reserved for those who did not place their faith in Christ. Their deeds alone cannot save them.
5. Salvation is by grace through faith alone, not by works, so that no one can boast.
6. The certainty of coming judgment should motivate believers to share the gospel with urgency and compassion.

Scriptures:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Hebrews 9:27 | ☐ Isaiah 65:19-23 |
| ☐ Luke 8:30-31 | ☐ Zechariah 14:16-21 |
| ☐ Jude 1:6 | ☐ Jeremiah 17:9 |
| ☐ 1 Corinthians 6:2 | ☐ 2 Corinthians 5:10 |
| ☐ Revelation 1:5-6 | ☐ John 3:16 |
| ☐ Revelation 5:10 | ☐ Ephesians 2:8-10 |
| ☐ 1 Peter 2:9 | ☐ Galatians 5 |
| ☐ Isaiah 2:2-5 | ☐ Titus 3:3-7 |
| ☐ Isaiah 11:6-9 | |
| ☐ 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 | |

Opening Question:

What is one wedding or big celebration you've attended that stands out in your memory, and what made it meaningful or memorable (Yes, you can share about yours.)?

Discussion Questions:

Pastor Tim emphasized that context is essential to understanding Revelation. Why do you think so many people find the book of Revelation confusing or intimidating? What would help your group approach it with more confidence?

Three views of the millennium were presented: amillennial, postmillennial, and premillennial. Before this sermon, which view were you most familiar with, or did you have a view at all? What questions do you still have about these perspectives?

Read Revelation 20:1-3 together. The passage describes Satan being bound and thrown into the abyss. What does this tell us about God's authority over evil? How does knowing that Satan's power is not ultimate affect the way you think about spiritual warfare today?

Revelation 20:4-6 describes the first resurrection and the privilege of reigning with Christ. What does it mean to you personally that those in Christ will rule and reign with him on the earth? Does that change the way you think about your future?

Pastor Tim pointed out that even during the thousand-year reign, when Satan is bound, people with mortal bodies will still sin and some will ultimately rebel. He referenced Jeremiah 17:9, which describes the human heart as deeply corrupt. What does this tell us about the nature of sin and humanity's need for redemption?

Read Revelation 20:11-15 together. What stands out to you about the great white throne judgment? What does it mean that people are judged "according to what they had done," and why is that terrifying apart from Christ?

Pastor Tim made a clear distinction between the judgment seat of Christ for believers and the great white throne judgment for unbelievers. How would you explain that distinction to someone who is afraid they might not make it to heaven because of things they have done?

The sermon closed with Titus 3:3-7. Read that passage together. Pastor Tim said, "My confidence, your confidence has to be in this truth that we've been regenerated through the Holy Spirit." What does it look like practically to place your confidence in Christ's work rather than your own goodness?

Pastor Tim shared that knowing judgment is coming should motivate us to share the gospel. He prayed for God to give the congregation "a heart for people who need to turn to you." Who in your life comes to mind when you think about someone who needs to hear the gospel before it is too late?

Pastor Tim said, "You don't have a one-way ticket to heaven. You have a return ticket." Referring to the truth that believers will return with Christ to reign on the earth, how does this change or expand your vision of eternity? Does it make you more or less eager for Christ's return?

Practical Applications:

1. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Ephesians 2:8-10 on your own this week. Write down one thing from each passage that either encourages you or challenges you, and bring it to share with the group next time.
2. Identify one person in your life who does not know Christ. Commit to praying for them by name every day this week and ask God to open a door for a gospel conversation.
3. Spend time this week meditating on what it means that you will one day reign with Christ on this earth in a glorified body. Let that truth shape how you approach your work, your relationships, and your struggles this week.
4. If you have never studied the early church fathers mentioned in the sermon, such as Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, and Papias, consider looking up one of their writings on the millennium. Seeing how believers throughout history understood these truths can strengthen your own confidence in Scripture.

Closing Thought/Prayer:

Pray that God would deepen our confidence in Christ's finished work, awaken urgency for those who do not know Him, and help us live today in light of the coming judgment and reign of Jesus.