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**SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
BIBLE SCHOOL SECOND EDITION
SESSION 30: JUDGMENTS**

In **II Timothy 2:15** we are instructed to *“rightly divide the word of truth”*. This is most essential when studying the judgments. Do not endeavor to make all the judgments conform to the theory of one general judgment. The general judgment theory is the invention of religion and is not taught in the Word of God. There **are five separate judgments** revealed in the Bible, and they differ as to time, place, and purpose. Yet they all have one thing in common: the Lord Jesus Christ is the judge (**John 5:22**)

Everyone, from Adam to the last man to be born on this earth will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ to be judged.

In the **first judgment**, the sins of the believers have already been judged in Christ on the cross.

In the **second judgment**, the believer is to judge self, or to be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ and be disciplined.

In the **third judgment**, all believers must appear at the “judgment seat of Christ” where their works are to be judged.

In the **fourth judgment**, all nations are to be judged at the Second Coming of Christ.

In the **fifth judgment**, the wicked dead are to be judged at the great white throne.

1. Judgment of the Believer’s sins

In **John 5:24**, our Lord tells us that the believer *“cometh not into condemnation (judgment)”*. The word condemnation is the same word rendered judgment (**Matt. 10:15**). Our sins were judged in Christ on Calvary, and every believer hath passed out of death into life. This is present salvation. Christ paid for our sins. He was judged in the believer’s stead. The believer will not come into judgment because:

A. Jesus Christ paid the penalty, and on the grounds of his substitutional death, the believer is separated from his sins forever (**Psalm 103:12**)

B. The sins of the believer have been *“blotted out”* and God has promised that He will not remember thy sins (**Isaiah 43:25**).

C. Our Lord suffered for our sins, **“the just for the unjust”** that we might be saved and never come into judgment as sinners (I Peter 3:18).

D. The believer will never be condemned with the world because Christ was condemned in our place. **“He was made to be sin for us”** (II Cor. 5:21). Christ was made a curse for us on the cross, **and “hath redeemed us from the curse of the law”** (Gal. 3:13). “He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself” (Heb. 9:26). The believer will not come into judgment because his sins have been purged. (Heb. 1:3)

2. JUDGMENT OF THE BELIEVER’S SELF

The judgment of the believer’s self is more than judging things in the believer’s life. When the believer judges his self, the good and the bad in his life come to light, and he will confess the bad (I John 1:9) and forsake it (Isaiah 55:7). However, it is not enough just to judge sin in the believer; ***he must judge self.***

I Corinthians 11:31, “FOR IF WE WOULD JUDGE OURSELVES, WE SHOULD NOT BE JUDGED”

A. To judge self is to practice self-abnegation, (to give up or renounce something), for when the believer sees self as God sees him, he will renounce self. It is replacing the self-life with the Christ-life. (Col. 3:4). ***Christ is the believer’s life.***

B. To judge self is to **deny self**. This is more than self-denial. Self-denial is denying oneself of the gratifications of the flesh. If we practice self-denial only, it is treating the symptom and not the cause. But, when we deny self, we are attacking the cause, for in self (that is, the flesh) **“dwelleth no good thing”** (Rom. 7:18). To deny self is to **“take up our cross and follow Christ”** (Mark 8:34-38).

C. To judge self is to **lose the self-life**, and find the Christ-life (Gal. 2:20)

D. To judge self is to **no longer be self-conscious** but becoming Christ-conscious (Matt. 28:20).

E. To judge self is to **no longer be self-controlled**, but to become **Christ-controlled** (Acts 9:6).

F. To judge self is to **no longer practice self-esteem**, but to **esteem others more highly than ourselves** (Phil. 2:3).

To judge self is to become selfless.

3. JUDGMENT OF THE BELIEVER'S WORKS

The believer's works will be judged at the "judgment seat of Christ." The term "judgment seat of Christ" is found only twice in the Bible, but it is referred to many times. It is found in **II Cor 5:10** and **Romans 14:10**.

A careful reading of both verses with the context reveals that only believers will appear at the "judgment seat of Christ". Their works will be judged, not for their sins, for we have already seen that the sins of the believer were judged in Christ on Calvary, and according to **Romans 8:1**, **"there is therefore now no condemnation (judgment) to them which are in Christ Jesus that walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit."**

A. The judgment will take place "in the air", following the first resurrection. The dead in Christ shall rise (**I Thess. 4:14-18**). There will be a thousand years between the resurrection of the saved and the unsaved (**Rev. 20:4-5**), and there will be a thousand years between the "judgment seat of Christ" where only saved will appear and the "great white throne judgment", where only unsaved will appear.

B. At the judgment seat of Christ, the believer will give an account of himself to God. Therefore, we should look to our own works, and not judge the works of others (**Romans 14:10-13**).

C. It is a most humbling thought to know that someday the believer will face all of his works – good or bad. Some will be ashamed (**I John 2:28**) and suffer loss, not the loss of salvation, but the loss of rewards (**I Cor. 3:11-15**).

So, according to **Col. 3:17**, and **3:23**, whatever we do, we must do it for the glory of God.

4. JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS

The judgment of the nations will take place *“when the Son of man shall come in His glory.”* (Matthew 25:31), *“Then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory”* (Rev. 20:11-15). *The great white throne is never called “the throne of His glory.”*

A. At this judgment, He will judge the living nations (Joel 3:11-16). At the white throne judgment, He will judge the wicked dead.

B. At this judgment there will be no resurrection of the dead. At the great white throne, all the wicked dead are raised; *“the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them.”* (Rev. 20:13).

B. At this judgment, the judge is God, “the King” judging the living nations in His earthly kingdom. At the great white throne, the judge is God, judging only the wicked dead.

C. At this judgment, there are no books opened. At the great white throne, the books were opened.

D. At this judgment, there are three classes judged:

1. “sheep” which are the saved (Rev. 7:9-17) and also (Matt. 25:33-34).

2. “goats” which are the unsaved (II Thess. 1:7-10); (also Matthew 25:41).

3. “Brethren” the elect of Israel (Rev. 7:1-8); and Romans 11:25-28. At the great white throne, there is only one class: “the dead”.

E. At this judgment, the King gives the kingdom to those who have eternal life. (Matthew 25:34) At the white throne, there are no saved and no kingdom; they are all “cast into the lake of fire”. (Matthew 25:41)

5. JUDGMENT OF THE WICKED DEAD

This is the great white throne judgment

A. At this judgment the **wicked dead will seek a hiding place** from the face of the Lord Jesus Christ, the judge, but there is no hiding place. (Revelation 20:11)

B. At this judgment, the wicked dead, small and great **will stand before God**. But the greatness of the great will be of no value. **Romans 3:12** *“There is none that doeth good, no not one.”*

C. At this judgment, the book of life will be opened. Why is the **Book of Life** opened if there are no saved at this judgment? The wicked will be shown that God in His mercy provided space for them in the Book of Life so that they are without excuse (**Romans 1:18-20**).

D. At this judgment, the dead will be judged according to their **works**. God is a just God, and since there are degrees of punishment in hell, some will be punished more than others (**Luke 12:42, 48**).

E. At this judgment, there will be **no acquittal**, no higher court to which the lost may appeal. They are lost and **lost forever**; they are damned to all eternity, and that without hope. There is a hell (**Luke 16:19-31**) and in hell, there is no hope, no sympathy, no love and even the love of God does not extend beyond the portals