

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 13



THE BIBLE AT THE JUDGMENT

Scripture Texts: John 12:47-50; Romans 2:11-16; Revelation 20:12-15

We are all to be judged according to how our lives measure up to the Bible and our attitude toward obeying its commandments.

Is there a more solemn thought than that we must stand and be judged by God? He has told us the standard by which we will be judged. He has written it in a Book and given us the Book. He has given the Holy Spirit to teach us His Word and enlighten all that are born into the world. What is the wise course for us to take? Why do some not take it? Saints have an obligation to acquaint others with the Bible.

MEMORY VERSE: *He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.—John 12:48*

DAILY READINGS:

Mon.—**Ezekiel 13:1-14** False prophets to be punished.

Tue.—**Mark 8:34-38** Must not be ashamed of Christ's Words.

Wed.—**Romans 2:1-16** To be judged according to knowledge.

Thu.—**1 Peter 3:9-18** Being ready for the Lord.

Fri.—**Psalms 119:129-144** David's great longing for God's Word.

Devotional Reading: Revelation 22:12-21 Danger in changing God's Word.

Christ's Words Will Judge Us

John 12:47-48 I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. (See **John 3:17**.) Jesus came in love for mankind. His foremost desire was to save sinners and bring them to Himself. He desired to make us a holy family together here in this life, so we could be together in the next. But He cannot let down His holy standard. His Word is changeless. He could not save if it were not. So if one rejects Him by receiving not His Words, he puts himself under the condemnation of those Words. **The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day**—the Day of Judgment, which is to come when all are resurrected as told in **John 5:28-30**. The Words of God spoken to us now are a preliminary judgment of that which will be final then. If we cannot pass the test as Christ's Word checks us out here, we can never hope to pass at the final Judgment. In the preliminary, we have an opportunity to change it, but at the final Judgment, we have no chance of change.

Authority Behind Christ's Words

John 12:49-50 I have not spoken of myself. None of the Trinity speaks or works alone. They have perfect unity. **The Father . . . gave me a commandment . . . what I should speak.** The authority of the Father is in ALL the Words of Jesus—for **whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.** Jesus said, **He that hath the Son hath life**—to have His Word is to have Christ. **God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son (1 John 5:11-12).** His salvation is a system of eternal life to bring the power of God to dying, miserable man. It will not do man any good that he has believed that Christ has come in the flesh to destroy the works of the devil if he does not come unto Him and receive life, but continues to live under the power and guilt of sin.

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Judged According to the Gospel

Romans 2:11-15 As many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law—will perish, not being born again. But their punishment will be less severe than of those who knew God's will and His offer of salvation (**Luke 12:47-48**). **Romans 2:14-15** tell us that the Gentiles—heathens—all have a **law written in their hearts, their conscience**. This is the law these ones will be judged by. **As many as have sinned in the law**—Moses' Law, knowing the law—shall be judged by the law— must measure to the requirements they knew or be punished accordingly.

Romans 2:16 **God shall judge the secrets of men**. The inmost heart will be laid bare (**Luke 12:2**). **By Jesus Christ**—He will be our Judge then, no more our Mediator (**2 Corinthians 5:10**). **According to my gospel**—the Gospel Paul preached, the Gospel of Christ. The Gospel is the standard of judgment. Have you received it? Have you loved to obey it? (**1 John 5:3**).

If those ignorant of God's Word will **be beaten with few stripes** (**Luke 12:48**), might it be better not to know? But one without the Word and so, without Christ, must perish. Though his stripes be fewer, still they are stripes. He is forever cut off from Christ and eternal life. It is best to know and to obey God's Word. Can one plead ignorance by closing the Bible and refusing to read? No. To know where to find God's Word or even that He gave a Word, is enough knowledge to make one accountable for knowing and obeying.

God's Books Will Measure Our Works

Revelation 20:12-15 **And I saw the dead small, and great, stand before God . . .** This is the final Judgment of all people, the only Judgment the Bible tells of. . . . **they were judged every man according to their works**. Two kinds of books are opened: (1) **the books** and (2) **the book of life**. The **books** are the standard of measurement by which each is to be judged, for **the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books**. And also, **according to their works**. Our works—the thoughts, words, and deeds of our lives—will be held beside the commands in the Books. They must agree. Their quality must measure to the quality required. If so, we will pass the Judgment. If not, we will be lost forever—a great tragedy! These Books are those which contain the Word Christ has spoken and the Gospel, the Bible. The other Book, **the book of life**, lists the names of God's children, those who will pass the Judgment and enter Heaven. Our names must be written in **the book of life** while we are in this world—before we die. It is written there when we are made alive in Christ—saved, born again (**Luke 10:20**). Can you remember when your name was written in the pages of **the book of life**?

JUST A THOUGHT

What are you doing with the Bible?