

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 13



THE JUDGMENT

Scripture Texts: Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Romans 2:16; John 12:48; Matthew 16:27; Romans 2:7-11; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Romans 8:19-23

As people work fervently here in this life to earn an earthly living, payday is looked forward to with great expectation. It is the reward for our labors. The same applies to the Christian who labors and fights for the cause of Christ through his days appointed here in this life. Death is his reward, his final crown of victory over Satan and the power of evil.

This is the day of all days, the day he leaves all the battles behind with their troubles and sorrows, and goes to be with Jesus in Heaven for all eternity—PAYDAY.

MEMORY VERSE: *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* — **Romans 6:23**

Importance of Our Response

We have been studying how God, through Jesus Christ, has given provision for each soul to live righteously. How each of us use these basic provisions determines our success or failure in this life. Our response to what God has provided determines what our payday will bring—life everlasting in Heaven or death in hell. We must look to the Heavenly goal as the only thing of worth.

The Day of Judgment

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 The Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, clearly teaches there is to be a judgment day, a day when all men and women shall receive their just dues (**Acts 10:42; Revelation 20:12-13**). We shall all be judged according to the Gospel of Christ. The Judge is appointed by God, and His jurisdiction includes the whole earth (**Acts 17:31**). Both living and dead are included in the Judgment. Christ is that Judge (**Romans 14:10**).

Romans 2:16 A standard is fixed by which we shall be judged—the standard under which each lived. No one having lived under the dispensation of grace and truth will be judged by the law, only those living under the law will be judged by the law.

The judgment does not determine whether or not the individual is guilty. This fact will be fully settled at death. The man or woman dying in sin will remain guilty forever. The fact that all receive a reward at death proves this. The Judgment will lack investigation because to God all things are fully known. Every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess without forced acknowledgment.

John 12:48 The revealed will of God is the standard of judgment. Christ told His hearers they would be judged by His Words. Judgment will depend on the degree of knowledge of the individual, not only on what he knows, but on what he had an opportunity to know and neglected to learn. Some have a more complete understanding of God's will than others, so are more responsible. The standards by which men are to be judged are the same as the standards by which sin is now imputed. The judgment will be perfectly just. There shall be no spite, but only justice.

The Day of Reward

Matthew 16:27 The same reasons that call for a judgment require that the judgment be accompanied with suitable rewards. The Bible teaches future and final rewards for all.

Romans 2:7-11 The rewards are not received on this earth. The earth is a place of probation, a preparation place for the eternal state. Change and decay are everywhere evident. This earth is not a suitable place for

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eternal existence. The earth will be destroyed at the Day of Judgment, so it cannot be the eternal home of either the righteous or the wicked.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-7 Heaven is a prepared place where Christ sits at the Father's right hand awaiting the reception of the saints. He shall come for us and take us to that place where He now is. It will not be this earth made over. The new Heaven and Earth will not be this earth. Heaven is a real place to which Christ ascended and from which He will return.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-10 The wicked will be punished in hell. As Heaven is a prepared place, so is hell. Hell is not the grave. The grave is not a place of punishment, but a place to which all go regardless of character. It is only the body that enters the grave. Hell is a place and not a mere condition (**Psalms 9:17**), and man, both soul and body, may be sent there (**Matthew 10:28**), a place of unquenchable fire. The rich man in hell had all his senses. The wicked shall be in a state of conscious suffering in hell. This is described as weeping and gnashing of teeth (**Matthew 8:12**), and a place of unquenchable fire. The rich man in hell had all his senses.

The Nature of Rewards

Romans 8:19-23 Paul here, considering only saved people, pictured God's children as **delivered from the bondage of corruption**—freed from sorrow, pain, and death. No temptation or danger of falling will be there.

Whole creation—all people, even those which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan. **Waiting for the adoption . . . for the redemption of our body**—to have our flesh redeemed from sickness and death, given life with Christ forever. **Our vile body will be fashioned like unto his glorious body (Philippians 3:21). An inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you (1 Peter 1:4). And they shall reign forever and ever (Revelation 22:5).**

Our bodies will be in Heaven just like Jesus' risen body. He had flesh and bones; He could handle things; He ate; He talked; He could hear. He had all five senses. Oh, how wonderful meeting the saints of all ages! DO NOT MISS IT.

JUST A THOUGHT

**Every person is a soldier of Jesus Christ,
or an agent for the devil.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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