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“The Judgment to Come”

Acts 24:22-27

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The Bible speaks about JUDGMENT—a personal judgment when we stand before the Lord and a global judgment for the wicked, known as the Great White Throne Judgment. For those who don't know Christ as Lord and Savior, the idea of “judgment” might be scary. But to those who have a relationship with Jesus, there is nothing to be afraid of! John 5:24 tells us that Believers “shall not come into judgment but pass from death to life.” That is because the punishment intended for us was taken by Jesus on the cross. In this study, we will consider the “the judgment to come” mentioned in Acts 24.

1. [Acts 24:22-27](#) - *“But when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge of the Way, he adjourned the proceedings and said, ‘When Lysias the commander comes down, I will make a decision on your case.’ So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let him have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him. And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, ‘Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.’ Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him. But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.”*
2. The Apostle Paul before Governor Felix
  - a. After being placed in prison for his own protection, a plot was devised to murder Paul
    - i. Paul's nephew uncovered the plot and Paul was transferred to Caesarea Maritima
  - b. Paul presented his defense and shared the good news of Christ with Governor Felix and his wife Drusilla

- i. Felix and Drusilla were curious about Paul's faith in Christ but did not accept Christ
  - 1. Felix said he would call Paul back at a "convenient time"
- c. Paul focused on three things in his discourse
  - 1. Righteousness
  - 2. Self-control
  - 3. The judgment to come

### 3. Righteousness

- a. God wants us to understand His assessment of the human condition so we will see our need for a Savior
  - i. **Romans 3:10b** - *"There is none righteous, no, not one."*
  - ii. **Isaiah 64:6a** - *"But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags."*
    - 1. The Hebrew word for rags translates to "menstrual cloths"
- b. If we believe the lie that we are "basically good," we will die in our sin
  - i. **Jeremiah 17:9a** - *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"*
- c. Jesus loves us, died for us, and those who put their faith in Him will be saved
  - i. **Philippians 3:9** - *"...not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith."*

### 4. Self-control

- a. A lack of self-control is connected to almost every sin
- b. **Galatians 5:22-23** - *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."*
- c. **Proverbs 25:28** - *"Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls."*

### 5. The judgment to come

- a. Jesus is Judge
  - i. **John 5:22** - *"For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son."*
  - ii. **Acts 10:42** - *"And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead."*
- b. Everyone will be judged
  - i. **Hebrews 9:27** - *"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment."*
  - ii. **Romans 14:10b** - *"For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."*

- c. The Great White Throne Judgment is only for the wicked at the end of the age
  - i. **Revelation 20:11-15** - *“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”*
- d. Believers in Jesus are “judged” at the time of salvation; since Christ’s righteousness is imputed to us and our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life at that time, the only “judgment” Christians will face is one where Jesus determines our rewards, not our punishment
  - i. **Revelation 21:27** - *“But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.”*
  - ii. **John 5:24** - *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”*
  - iii. **Matthew 16:27** - *“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”*
- e. For those who are right with God through salvation in Christ, there is no reason to fear judgment
- f. Those who are delaying accepting Christ as Savior, waiting for a “more convenient time,” must realize that we are not guaranteed tomorrow

### Discussion Questions

1. Read **Acts 24:22-27** to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. What topics did Paul address in his discourse before Felix and Drusilla? (See #2c above)
3. Read **Romans 3:10b**, **Isaiah 64:6a**, **Jeremiah 17:9a**, and **Philippians 3:9**. Discuss the concept of righteousness. Why is righteousness important to understand? How do we become righteous? (See #3 above)

4. Read [Galatians 5:22-23](#) and [Proverbs 25:28](#). Why is self-control important in the life of the Believer? How do we improve our self-control? (See #4 above)
5. Who is the ultimate Judge? How do we know? (See #5a above)
6. Who will be judged? (See #5b above)
7. What is the Great White Throne Judgment? (See #5c above)
8. How are Believers judged? (See #5d above)
9. How should the coming judgment motivate us in our interactions with nonbelievers?
10. Close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)