

Weaving the Word

Here Comes the Judge

January 13, 2019

Welcome to where we're learning how to walk in the light!

Are you looking forward to being judged?



It's almost Passover (one year before the cross). Jesus just finished telling about the Good Samaritan to those who took Him up on His offer and came to Him to learn from Him how to rest in Him.



That morning, He snuck into Jerusalem (as a wanted man) and anonymously healed an excuse-making whiner at the Pool of Bethesda, who squealed on Him.



Then the Pharisees interrupted and harassed Jesus for working on the Sabbath and for calling God His Father; to which He replied: "*My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working. The Son ... can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.*" ...



For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, **to your amazement** [i.e. *wonderment; bafflement; mystification; puzzlement*] **he will show him even greater things than these.** [So what're the chances we'll see it right off?] For **[Here it comes]** just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it. Moreover, **the Father judges no one,** [Really? 'Cause, I'm pretty sure Adam got cursed, and kicked out of the Garden *and* God's presence (Gen 3:17-24)] but **has entrusted all judgment to the Son,** that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the **Son** does not honor the **Father, who sent him.** **[But I thought ...]** – John 5:20-23 NIV



God **did not send** the Son into the world **to judge** [as in: *condemn*] **the world,** but that the world might be **saved** through Him. – John 3:17 NAS

Hmm. Maybe it wasn't His *reason*; but if He has to, He will? Nice try. But, Jesus clearly says:

*If anyone hears My words and does not believe, **I do not judge him**; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.* – John 12:47 NKJ

Okay, so what's going on here? Turns out, it's an incredible make-me-make-sense moment!

I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. – John 5:24 NIV



Of all the towns in this world, you can't go to Burlington. *Why?* We're already there. **The God who kicked Adam/Man out of the Garden won't judge. Why? He already did.** Found us *guilty*; sentenced us and *everything*. That's why Jesus says: "**he has crossed over from death to life**". **We were sentenced to serving time in the darkness of an isolated debtor's prison.**



The Spirit of the Lord is on me ... *He has sent me* to proclaim *freedom* for the *prisoners* and *recovery of sight* for the *blind*, to *release the oppressed* ... – Luke 4:18 NIV



... and *release* those who through *fear of death* were all their *lifetime subject to bondage*. – Hebrews 2:15 NKJ

But, **what's Jesus going to judge? Nothing! And everything! No one! And everyone!** Seriously. **If you were already doing time, why would you go before a judge?** Early release! Parole!

Imagine you're in a debtor's prison, no hope of repaying and being released. You owe too much. But then you're called before the judge; and he tells you that *he himself* is paying your debt! **Now, imagine turning him down.** You disagree you ever owed it. You reject it out of protest. You don't need no *charity* – **especially if it means admitting and confessing what your pride isn't willing to own up to.** So, the judge says, *sadly*: "Okay. Go back to your cell. **You'll remain condemned down here, because I can make no judgment.**"

I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should **stay in darkness**. As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, **I do not judge him** [as in: *condemn him. We're way past that*]. For I *did not come* to *judge* the world, *but to save it*. *There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words* [and the full pardon that accompanies them, by receiving them into their heart]; that very word which I *spoke* will *condemn him* at the last day [because, it'll be obvious that they didn't wholeheartedly receive it]. – John 12:46-48 NIV

I tell you the truth, **a time is coming and has now come** when the **dead will hear** the voice of the Son of God and **those who hear will live**. – John 5:25 NIV

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not [as in: *no longer*] condemned, but **whoever does not believe stands condemned already** ... This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but [tragically] men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. – John 3:16-19 NIV



"I'll stay in this prison, *thank you very much*." **The longer we live in the dark, the less we desire the light.**

Our brain still contains and really hangs onto those neural networks of darkness. **The only way to defeat the dark is to soak up the light of His love.**

So, after we confess it, reject it, renounce it, and repent, we must surrender and replace all those dark desires, beliefs, and motives, with the light that only come from God's Word.

For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the **Son [of God]** to have life in himself. And **he has given him [the Son of God] authority to judge because he [the Son of God] is the Son of Man.** [Allowing Him to satisfy the debt on our behalf] **Do not be amazed [i.e. wondermented, bafflemented, mystificationed, or puzzlemented] at this, [in other words: wonder no more! Hear this clue:] for a time is coming [but not, "and has now come," like before] when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out**—those who have done good will rise **to live**, and those who have done evil will rise **to be condemned.** [That happens **after the cross**] – John 5:26-29 NIV

And, this is where He would've paused for them to *get it*. Back when He said "*a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear ... (and) live,*" and they'll "*cross over from death to life,*" He wasn't talking those in their graves; He was referring to the *mostly-dead above ground!*

[When we began, we read where Jesus said] ... just as the Father *raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it.*

So [Paul writes] we make it *our goal to please him*, whether we are at home *in the body* or *away from it*. For we must *all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him* for the *things done while in the body, whether good or bad.* – 2 Cor 5:7-10 NIV

This isn't a one-time deal; **it's a daily receiving and embracing and rejoicing, because how could it not be – if it was genuine? If we don't want to be left in the dark we must live in the Light.** And when we stand before His throne of judgment, His one goal is to set us free; but, **our rejection here will condemn us there.** We go before the throne to see if we get to go home.

And the only way we don't, is if we say, "No thank you" down here; and deny our culpability, and refuse to acknowledge our guilt, and reject the free gift of freedom and life. **It comes down to a heart of humble faith or proud denial.**

Because of your **stubbornness** and your **unrepentant heart**, you are **storing up wrath against yourself** for the day of God's wrath, when his **righteous judgment** will be revealed. – Romans 2:5 NIV

So, are you storing up wrath or storing up treasure? I guarantee that it's one or the other.

By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for **I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.** ["By the way, the One who sent Me said ..."] – John 5:30 NIV

Son of man, **receive** into **your heart all My words** that I speak to you, and **hear** with **your ears**. And **go**, get to the **captives** ... and tell them, "Thus says the Lord God," whether **they hear**, or whether they **refuse.**" – Ezekiel 3:10-11

[And] Son of man, **look** with **your eyes** and **hear** with **your ears**, and fix **your mind** on **everything I show you**; for you were brought here so that **I might show them to you.** Declare to the house of Israel **everything you see.**" – Ezekiel 40:4b NKJ

And then we'll see who wants to see what there is to see.

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does *not* believe is *condemned already* ... – John 3:18a NKJ

... it is *appointed* for *man* to *die once*, and *after that* comes *judgment* ... – Hebrews 9:27 ESV

And the Lord God commanded the man/Adam, "... *you must not eat from the tree ... for when you eat of it you will surely die.*" – Genesis 2:16-17 NIV

For as in *Adam all die*, so in *Christ all* will be *made alive*. – 1 Corinthians 15:22 NIV

For the *wages of sin* is *death*, but the *gift of God* is *eternal life* in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23 NIV

Whoever *believes* in the *Son has eternal life*, but whoever *rejects the Son will not see life*, for *God's wrath remains on him*. – John 3:36 NIV

Much more than, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be *saved from wrath* through Him. – Romans 5:9 NKJ

For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is *not ashamed to call them brethren* ... – Hebrews 2:11 NAS

We know that we have *passed from death to life*, because we *love our brothers*. *Anyone who does not love remains in death*. *Anyone who hates his brother is a murderer*, and *you know that no murderer has eternal life* in him. – 1 John 3:14-15 NIV

But the *cowardly*, the *unbelieving*, the *vile*, the *murderers*, the *sexually immoral*, those who practice *magic arts*, the *idolaters* and all *liars*—their *place* will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. *This is the second death.*" – Revelation 21:8 NIV

I tell you the *truth*, if anyone *keeps my word*, he will *never see death*. – John 8:51 NIV

Who is he who *condemns*? It is Christ *who died*, and *furthermore* is also *risen*, who is *even at the right hand of God*, who also *makes intercession* for us. *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?* – Romans 8:34-35a NKJ

He who has the *Son* has *life*; he who *does not have the Son of God does not have life*. – 1 John 5:12 NIV

This is how God showed his love among us: He *sent his one and only Son* into the world that *we might live* through him. – 1 John 4:9 NIV

Therefore, there is *now no condemnation* for those who are *in Christ Jesus*, because *through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death*. – Romans 8:1-2 NIV

Speak and act as those who are going to be *judged by the law that gives freedom*, because *judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful*. *Mercy triumphs over judgment!* – James 2:12-13 NIV

So, what'll it be? **Would you like to forfeit your grace and continue in condemnation; or receive your pardon in full?**

If I'm not walking in the light, I'm a dead-man-walking.