

“The Eternal Destiny of Man 2”
“Implications of the Gospel” — Part 11
Acts 17:31

For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.
Acts 17:31

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ.
We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heavens and new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. Amen.

1. God will raise the dead bodily.

Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming 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.

John 5:28-29

2. There are several judgments mentioned in the Bible.

• The judgment seat of Christ

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 Corinthians 5:10

- This is a judgment of believers.
- This is a reward judgment.
- We will use these rewards to worship Jesus.

• The judgment of the nations

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.” “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

Matthew 25:31-34 and 41

- This is a judgment at the time of Christ’s return.
- This is a judgment at the end of the tribulation.
- This is a judgment about who will enter the kingdom.

• The Great White Throne judgment

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
Revelation 20:11-15

- This is the final judgment.
- It is at the end of the kingdom reign of Christ.
- This seems to be a final judgment primarily of unbelievers.
- Some see all three of these happening at the same time.
- Others see these as three distinct judgments.
- The one thing that is clear is that everyone who has ever lived will stand before Jesus in judgment.

But 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. God "will give to each person according to what he has done."
Romans 2:5-6

3. The eternal destiny of the unbeliever (Hell and the Lake of Fire)

"Hell is the great compliment to the reality of human freedom and the dignity of human choice."

G. K. Chesterton

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Luke 16:19-31

Important facts about hell:

- Hell exists. It is real.
- God is the God of hell. (Rev. 1:18; Rev. 20:10)
- Hell is what we all deserve. (Romans 6:23)
- Hell contains the eternal souls of all who reject the Gospel.

He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord...
2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

What do we learn about the rich man in the afterlife?

- He is in hell and he is in torment.
- He is conscious. He has not ceased to exist. He can look around. He has a high level of mental clarity.
- He feels that he is above the poor beggar. Send Lazarus!
- The selfishness of the unbeliever continues to grow after death. *He cares about himself and his own, period!*

Application: Understanding the truth of final judgment:

- allows us to forgive others freely. Romans 12:19-21
- is an incentive for doing good. (Matthew 6:19-21)
- should provide a great motive for evangelism. (2 Peter 3:9)

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:9

- Remember, no one has to pay for their own sins; Jesus offered to pay the penalty. (John 3:16-18)
- There is a point of no return in everyone's life. (Heb. 6:4 and 9:27)

**The Bible presents the gospel
as a matter of eternal significance.**