



Judgment Robert Morris

Focus The words “condemnation” and “repentance” sound like bad news, but they become good news when we look at them through the lens of Jesus Christ. The word “judgment” also becomes good news when we make Jesus our Lord. All of us will face the final judgment. Our beliefs determine *where* we spend eternity, and our behavior determines *how* we spend eternity.

Fun If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Review Key Scriptures: Hebrews 9:27; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 16:27

1. Each and Every One

The Bible says that each and every person will be judged one day based on his or her beliefs. Our beliefs determine our behavior, and our behavior determines how we live and the things we do or don't do. For example, if you believe God will bless you for tithing, then you will tithe. Every work we have ever done—whether good or bad and including things done in secret—will be judged. Give your life to Jesus, and your belief will dictate your behavior.

2. The Bad News

Revelation 20:11–13 explains that all of us will face judgment according to our works. There are two judgments: the Great White Throne Judgment and the Judgment Seat of Christ. Your eternal destiny is settled by your belief on earth. The Great White Throne Judgment is for unbelievers, and the Judgment Seat of Christ is for believers. Unbelievers are storing up wrath to the degree of their sins, and believers are storing up treasure.

3. The Good News

Our eternal destinies are determined by our beliefs on earth. If you give your life

to Christ, then you will be saved and go to heaven. But *how* we spend eternity in heaven is determined by our behavior on earth. If believers live their lives to build a foundation on Jesus Christ, God will reward them personally at the Judgment Seat of Christ. The choice is up to us if we build our lives on a foundation that will last.

Group Dynamics Idea Take time before your group begins to pray and listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying. Be sensitive to the direction He wants the group to go. Be aware of how God is working in the lives of those in your group, and partner with Him.

Discuss

1. What surprised you the most when Pastor Robert said that every one of us will face judgment?
2. What does it mean to be a believer or an unbeliever?
3. Why might facing judgment be a good thing for a believer?
4. Do you agree or disagree with what Pastor Robert shared about our beliefs determining how we live and how we behave? Give an example.
5. Read 1 Corinthians 3:10–15. What do you think it looks like in our everyday lives to build with gold and silver? What is an example of building with wood and straw?
6. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Each one of us will face judgment.
- Unbelievers will be separated from God.
- Believers will be rewarded by God based on their works.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we believe in You, and we submit our lives to You. Search us and know us. See if there is anything in us that does not bring You glory. Convict us of sin so we may repent and walk in Your ways. Help us to store up treasure in heaven for Your glory. We commit our works to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip It's good stewardship to have a plan for your group, but it's also necessary to set the plan aside sometimes if the Holy Spirit is leading the group in another direction that day. Always be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading.