

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT *Revelation 20:11-15*

INTRODUCTION:

Hebrews 9:27 – is a verse that most of us can quote from memory. This verse speaks of more than death; it reveals the reality of judgment.

All men lost or saved, will face God one day in judgment. We will look at the "*Judgment Seat of Christ*", next in this series. However, in this message we will deal with the future judgment of the lost, at the, "**Great White Throne Judgment**". For those who enter eternity without Christ, this will be a sad and dreadful event.

The "**Great White Throne Judgment**," is not to be confused with the "**Judgment Seat of Christ**", mentioned elsewhere in the Bible.

The "**Judgment Seat of Christ**" is for those who have been saved. At that judgment, the saved will be judged according to their works. They will be judged according to the life they lived after they received Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

The "**Great White Throne Judgment**", on the other hand is **NOT** at all for the saved, but is reserved for those who die without Jesus Christ.

TRANS. SENTENCE:

There are **FOUR THINGS** I want to look at today about, "**the Great White Throne Judgment.**"

I. THE CERTAINTY OF THIS JUDGEMENT.

A. It Is Certain As To Its Time

1. God has a specific time set for this judgment of the unsaved.
2. According to the book of Revelation it will take place at the **end of** the 1,000 year Millennial reign of Christ on the earth, just **prior to** the creation of a new heaven and a new earth – *Revelation 20:7-15*
3. It will be after Satan, the beast, and false prophet are cast into the lake of fire – *Revelation 20:7-10.*

B. It Is Certain As To Its Fear

II. THE IMPARTIALITY OF THIS JUDGMENT

Verse 12- mentions both the, "*small*" and, "*great*" standing before God in judgment. By John's words we understand that **no one** will be excluded. **No one** will be left out. **No one** will be able to escape.

A. "*Small*" - Speaks Of The Unimportant.

B. "Great" - Speaks Of The Elite

- C.** There will be **Equality** at the, "**Great White Throne**", in the sense that all men will be judged the same, regardless of how insignificant or important they were. - **Deuteronomy 10:17** - **For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:**

III. THE ACCURACY OF THIS JUDGMENT – Verses 12, 13b, 15

- 1) The mention of books speaks to the accuracy of this judgment.
- 2) Accurate records are being kept in heaven, and one day those books will be the source of the judgment that goes forth from the Great White Throne.
- 3) Those at the judgment mentioned here will be judged in regards to two things.

A. THE LORD THEY NEGLECTED

1. First of all, John mentions a "**book**" singular, which is the book of life. Contained in the book of life are all the names of all the people who have been saved or born again by God's grace.
2. On the other hand, everyone who stands before the Great White Throne have neglected God's free gift of eternal life, and their names are not to be found in the Lamb's book of life.
3. There will be those who were trusting in their:
 - a. baptism
 - b. good works
 - c. church membership
 - d. those who were trusting in the ways of Mohammad or Confucius or the Virgin Mary.
 - e. those trusting in a particular denomination.
 - f. those who were trusting in some other way other than the Bible Way.
 - g. some even believe it does not make any difference as long as you are sincere about what you believe. They believe that any and all ways end up in heaven just as long as the person is sincere in what they believe.
4. All of these ways may sound good but they are NOT according to God's Word.
 - (1) Jesus said of Himself in **John 14:6** - "**I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**"
 - (2) Peter said in **Acts 4:12** - "**Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**"

B. The Life They Ignored

1. John also mentions the **"books"** plural and says that these books contain the works of those being judged.
2. These books are NOT opened to see whether a person goes to heaven or hell.
3. The purpose of the books of records or the books of deeds is to determine the degree of punishment a person will receive, **Matthew 11:20-24** - {20} **Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: {21} Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. {22} But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. {23} And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. {24} But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee.**
4. Every unbeliever will be judged and punished for their sins, no more and no less.

IV. THE DEVASTATION OF THIS JUDGMENT

A. There Is No Hiding

1. No place to hid from this Great White Thorne of Judgment.
2. There will be no place in the entire world to hid and miss this judgment.

B. There Is No Help

1. Every person will be judged by themselves.
2. There will be no one there to plead their case or to speak on their behalf.

C. There Is No Hope – Verse 15 - **"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire".**

1. Here is the terrifying end for the unsaved, the unrepentant, for those that were not **"in Christ."**

2. At this judgment, there will be those people that were terribly wicked as well as those who were considered "honest and good," but they neglected Jesus Christ as Saviour.
3. For all of eternity, day and night, they will never again have any rest from the torment of the burning flame.
4. There will never be any hope of escape, pardon are getting out on good behavior.
5. Oh how sad are the words found in **Verse 15** – **"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire"**.

CONCLUSION:

The saddest part about all of this is that it does not have to be this way. God has provided a way in which every one of us can escape the horrors of this judgment. No one within the sound of my voices has to stand at the Great White Throne Judgment.

The Bible says, - **"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."**

If you stand before the Lord in judgment at the Great White Throne, it will be because you neglected the gift of God's salvation. You will have no one to blame but yourself.

The full wrath of God is seen at the cross when His Son died on the cross and the Great White Throne Judgment.

Which judgment will you meet God?