

Foundations 9a Eternal Judgment

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits”. **Hebrews 6:1-3**

The resurrection of Jesus assures us of a future judgment day Acts 17:30-31 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man (Christ Jesus) whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment **Hebrews 9:27**

Salvation or Damnation

The Bible plainly teaches that every person will be judged according to his or her works. Each person will either spend eternity full of joy, peace and love in the kingdom of God or in terrible torment suffering eternal damnation. Our faith in Jesus Christ, in order to be saving faith, must produce fruit: good works in accordance with God’s will. (Foundations No. 1 clearly explains how to be saved by trusting Jesus Christ.)

The Word of God declares that He “will render to each one according to his deeds: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to

everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.”

Romans 2:6-11

There is much more to the “eternal judgment” of God than going to heaven or hell. For the saved person there are different levels of reward and varying degrees of authority, influence and glory. Before we look at these, we will look at the eternal judgment that falls on those who died without repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

Some of the practices that will keep people from God’s kingdom

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. **Galatians 5:19-21**

“Uncleanness” includes lust, lewdness and pornography.

“Sorcery” is translated from the Greek word from which we get the English word “pharmacy”. This includes drug and alcohol abuse.

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. **1 Cor. 6:9-10**

It is not only the sins of commission (evil things done) but also sins of omission (things we should have done but didn't do) that lead to damnation.

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” **Matthew 25:31-46**

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. **Matthew 7:21**

Hell and the Lake of Fire

The Bible teaches that hell is in the lower parts of the earth. (Ezekiel 26:20-21, Numbers 16:30-33, 2 Peter 2:4). Hell is a place of indescribable torment and fear where those who did not repent from their sins abide forever.

After the Second Coming of the Lord

Jesus Christ there will be a 1,000 year reign of Christ on this planet where God’s glory, righteousness, peace and joy will cover the earth. After this 1,000 year reign the lost will be taken from hell and cast into the lake of fire, along with satan and all other evil spirits.

“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.”

Revelation 20:11-15

The Bible describes some of the eternal torments in hell and the lake of fire.

Raining burning coals, fire and brimstone
with a burning wind (**Psalm 11:6**)

A furnace of fire where there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth
(**Matthew 13:41-42**)

A place of torments (**Luke 16:23**)

A place of everlasting punishment (**Matthew 25:46**)

A place where people scream for mercy (**Luke 16:24**)

A place of sorrows (**Psalm 18:5**)

A place where they have no rest (**Revelation 14:11**)

A place of blackness and darkness forever . (**Jude 13**)

A place where their worm does not die and the fire never goes out
(**Mark 9:48**)

A place where they will be tormented with fire and brimstone
(**Revelation 14:10, Luke 16:24**)

A place where they will drink the wine of God's wrath
(**Revelation 14:10**)

A place where they did not want their loved ones to come (**Luke 16:28**)

The judgments of God are righteous

“The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.”

Psalm 19:9b

God loves sinners

In light of the righteous judgments of God, we appreciate even more God's great love for sinners by giving His Son, Jesus Christ, to save us.

For God is “not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

2 Peter 3:9

“As I live, says the Lord God, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’”

Ezekiel 33:11

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned

already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than Light, because their deeds were evil.” **John 3:16-19**

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the Light of life.” **John 8:12**