

April 14, 2024

## The Last Judgement – Lesson 2

Last week I introduced the subject of the coming Judgment in which the Lord Jesus will judge all mankind humanity *...according to their deeds* [**Rev. 20:13**], resulting in all humanity being divided into two distinct groups— the guilty and the not guilty.

What is it about the deeds of the goats that cause them to be judged as guilty and the sheep as not guilty? Doesn't **Rom. 3:23** tell us that *...all have sinned...*?

The answer has to do with God's original purpose for creating us in His image. In order to recover His original purpose God *...sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins* [**1 John 4:11**] so that *...the world might be saved through Him* [**John 3:17b**].

*...saved... from what and to what?*

*...saved... from the penalty of sin ...to become conformed to the image of His Son* [**Rom. 8:29**].

As a result, *...we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses* [**Eph. 1:7**].

AND we have *...become the Righteousness of God in Christ* [**2 Cor.5:21**].

This means that we have been *...justified by [God's] grace* [**Titus 3:7**]. To be justified means God has declared us to be not guilty of any sinful deeds because Jesus has paid the full, final and forever penalty of all our sin.

However, there is just ONE deed that we must do to receive Jesus' verdict of not guilty. This is what Jesus said in **John 6:29** when He was asked what deed must we do to do the *...works of God?*...

This is the [ONE deed] work of God, that you believe in Him Whom He has sent...

This is the meaning of **John 3:18**. He who believes in [Jesus] is not judged [as guilty] but *...he who does not believe has been judged [as guilty] already, because he has not believed in the Name of the only begotten Son of God.*

And it is the refusal to do this ONE deed that will cause Jesus to judge the rest as guilty of sin. **John 8:24** *...unless you believe that I AM, you will die in your sins...*

What is this ONE deed that determines our eternal destiny? We read the answer in **John 1:11-13** - *[Jesus] came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who*

*believe in His Name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God...*

This ONE deed is our receiving the Gift of God's Son which Jesus calls being *...born of the Spirit...* in **John 3:6; Ez. 36;25-27**

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

As a result of this ONE deed, we are judged to be guilty of any sinful deed.  
And the goats are judged as guilty because they refuse to believe the Gospel.

Why are our deeds so important?

Deeds are the external evidence of our faith in Jesus.

**Matt 7:20** *...by their fruit [deeds] you will recognize them...*

Now we can, by the power of the Spirit, *...walk in the same manner as He walked* [**1 John 2:6**]

In this way God's original purpose in **Gen.1:26** is being fulfilled in us who are in Christ by having received Him.

Now let's summarize the difference between the word *...judgment...* in **John 5:24** and **2 Cor. 5:10**

Even though both are called judgments -

**John 5:24** is a judgment of position, of those not in Christ

**2 Cor. 5:10** is a judgment of the practice of those who are in Christ.

Next week we will begin to parse 2 Cor. 5:10.