

You Can Run;
You Cannot Hide

I. Facts about final judgment

First (elementary) principle

Hb.6¹ 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, ² of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

No one can plead ignorance

- Baby needs no teeth to drink milk.
- Gn.18²⁵ Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?
- “What about innocent heathen?”
 - Innocent people need not worry.
 - But...Romans 3: who is innocent?

Time of Judgment unknown to us

- 1 Th.5² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night
- God knows, Ac.17³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead
- After death, Hb.9²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment

Universal

- All nations, Mt.25³² 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...
 - Mt.28:19 – Gospel intended for same people who will be at Judgment... every accountable person
- Living and dead, 1 Pt.4⁵ They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead

Universal

- Judges in human courts cannot punish the dead. ****Hitler****
- 2 Pt.2⁹ then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment
- 2 Pt.3⁷ But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men

Areas of accountability

Our . . .

- Toils. Ec.12:13-14, *every work*
- Tongues. Mt.12:36-37, *every idle word*
- Thoughts. 1 Co.4:5, *each one*
- Teaching. Ja.3:1-2, *we all stumble*

Standard: word of God

- Jn.12⁴⁸ He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day
- *Cannot separate Man from plan*

I. Facts about final judgment

II. Finality of final judgment

Lord will pass sentence

- Mt.23³³ Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?
 - Condemnation ‘often means judgment that goes against a person, condemnation, and the sentence that follows’ – BDAG.
- Only two possible destinies: heaven or hell.
- Mt.25:32...34...41...46

I. Facts about final judgment

II. Finality of final judgment

III. Force of final judgment

Not everyone has to prepare for final judgment. Those who . . .

1. Live forever on earth. Ps.90. 2 Pt.3
2. Escape jurisdiction of God. Hb.2:3
3. Avoid detection. Ec.12:14
4. Hire a good lawyer. Mt.22:11-14
5. Appeal to higher court. Ac.25. Am.4:12
6. Lower the standard. 2 Pt.2:19
7. Beg for mercy. Ja.2:13. Lk.16
8. Are good; do more good than bad. Ja.4:17.
Lk.16

Coming judgment forces sober people to take God seriously

- Flee! Mt.3:...7
- Repent. Mt.4:17
- Do will of God. Mt.7:21
- Concern for needs of others. Mt.25:30-46
- Concern for salvation of others. 2 Co.5:10f.; Ph.2:3
- Holiness. 2 Pt.3:11, 14
- Vigilance. 2 Pt.3:12

Ezekiel 18:24

- True of . . .
 - Health
 - Money
 - Marriage
 - Murder