



# GOD'S JUDGMENT

**As  
Salvation**

## God's Judgement Our Salvation

- I was intending on beginning a deeper study on God's kind of love this morning, but I kept getting stuck in my study
  - I kept bumping into the door of God's Judgement
  - I finally realized that we can't really go deep into a study of God's love without beginning with a deeper understanding of God's judgement

## God's Judgement Our Salvation

- We tend to focus so much on God's love that we fail to bring God's judgement up to the same focus because of fear and maybe pride
  - We know it is still back there
  - We know God is holy and just while we are definitely not
  - We know God hates sin to the fullest and yet we sin
  - We know all sin and fall vastly short of the glory God intended for our lives
  - We know the Scriptures about a Judgement Day coming where I will present my life before this holy, just, sin hating God

## God's Judgement Our Salvation

- Jirí Moskala, “For centuries the word judgment has struck fear in the hearts of God’s people, but this doesn’t have to be our response”
  - “We are used to thinking negatively about God’s judgment, however, the Bible provides a different paradigm (*a fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions*) regarding this essential divine activity, and we need to learn to perceive it as an affirming event.”

## God's Judgement Our Salvation

- A distorted understanding has been influenced by those who use divine judgment as a tool to motivate believers to obedience, to encourage them to be good and to behave nicely
  - The result is an unrealistic fear of God's judgement
- Some Biblical concepts that are hard and uncomfortable, so we just throwing up our hands and say, "That's just the way it is"
  - With the Holy Spirit's help this morning let us ponder and grasp deeper God's Judgment so we can accept God's love ever deeper

## God's Judgement Our Salvation

- According to popular understanding to judge carries the idea to “condemn,” “punish,” and “destroy”
- Here is the Biblical definition of Judgement I’m using this morning
  - To bring about justice, correct and discipline believers for restoration, separate the righteous from the wicked, and ultimately to display God's holiness, mercy and love - Leading to reconciliation and salvation for the faithful, not just destruction.
  - It serves to vindicate those who trust in God and bring ultimate triumph to His will, revealing His character of love and righteousness.

## God's Judgement Our Salvation

- From this definition I've pulled out four summary statements of the purposes of God's judgement
  - To Judge Means to "Justify Fully"
  - To Judge Means to "Lead to Reconciliation and Salvation"
  - To Judge Means the "Deliverance and Separation from the Wicked"
  - To Judge Means to "Vindicate and Display God's Holiness, Mercy and Love "

## To Judge Means to “Justify Fully”

- According to popular cultural understanding, to judge means to “condemn,” “punish,” and “destroy”
- But God’s divine purpose for His judgement is to restore His “*very good*” lost by sin in the Garden of Eden
  - **Revelation 21:5 NIV**, 5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”
    - With a new heaven and earth and new born-again adoptive men and women
    - How is He going to do this without His judgement?

## To Judge Means to “Justify Fully”

- Without His judgement
  - There would be no salvation available because God judged sin on the Cross of Jesus
  - There would be no conviction of sin leading us to salvation
  - There would be no justification from salvation
  - There would be no constraint of wickedness in the world

## To Judge Means to “Justify Fully”

- Take our salvation
  - When Christians equate God’s judgment with condemnation, punishment, and destruction it’s hard to experience joy and assurance of salvation in Christ Jesus
  - It robs them of thankfulness, and their seesaw of faith is divided between the redemption secured on the Cross and the fear of God’s judgment

## To Judge Means to “Justify Fully”

- Take our salvation
  - Someone called it “Schizophrenic Christianity”
  - On one hand, they know that they are saved in Jesus Christ, but on the other, they understand that there will be a judgment day
  - It’s difficult to reconcile these two realities, and they lose their peace and absolute certainty of their salvation

## To Judge Means to “Justify Fully”

- When we come to God through the Cross of Jesus Christ we are saying, “I trust the work of Jesus Christ on the cross and nothing else”
  - **Isaiah 53:6 NIV**, “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity (*sinfulness*) of us all.”
    - God judged our sinfulness and laid that debt upon our Lord Jesus Christ
  - **Isaiah 53:5 NIV**, “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed

## To Judge Means to “Justify Fully”

- When we come to God through the Cross of Jesus Christ we are saying, “I trust the work of Jesus Christ on the cross”
  - **2nd Corinthians 5:21 NIV**, “God made him who had no sin to be sin (*sin sacrifice*) for us, so that in him we might (*will*) become the righteousness of God (*demanded*).”
    - Upon our salvation we stand before God and He pronounces us officially righteous or in the right with Him by the divine authority God
    - Fully justified before a holy and righteous God

## To Judge Means to “Justify Fully”

- Justification is
  - Legal Verdict: It's a judicial act by God, a declaration, not necessarily a change within the person at that moment (*that's sanctification*)
  - God charges our sin to Jesus and credits Jesus' righteousness to us
  - It's not just being let off the hook; it's being declared fully righteous, like the "just-as-if-I-never-sinned" concept
  - It restores a right relationship with God, moving beyond mere pardon to full acceptance as His adoptive child

## To Judge Means to “Justify Fully”

- George Ladd explains: “The doctrine of justification means that God has pronounced the verdict of acquittal over the man of faith in the present, in advance of the final judgment. . . . Thus the man in Christ is actually righteous, in terms of his relationship to God.”
- Jirí Moskala, “When we pass through God’s acquittal, He justifies us as our Judge, and in His eyes, we are what we will be.”

## To Judge Means to “Justify Fully”

- **Romans 12:19 NIV**, 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.
  - Why can I let loose of the hurts from the past I’ve hung onto for so long?
  - Why do I no longer have to hold onto the painful events of the past?
  - Why can I set my judgements aside?
  - Why can I set my guilts aside?
  - God will take care of them for you

## To Judge Means to “Lead to Reconciliation and Salvation”

- Because God has already judged believers and declares them as righteous, He then saves them from the second death, present sin, present guilt, the present power of evil, and gives eternal life
- Salvation is much more than just the setting aside of our sin debt
  - **Matthew 10:28 NIV**, 28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

## To Judge Means to “Lead to Reconciliation and Salvation”

- Salvation is much more than just the setting aside of our sin debt
  - **John 3:16-18 NIV**, 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
    - 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.

## To Judge Means to “Lead to Reconciliation and Salvation”

- Salvation is much more than just the setting aside of our sin debt
  - **Romans 6:6-7 NIV**, 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.
  - **Romans 8:1 NIV**, 1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus
  - **Colossians 1:13-14 NIV**, 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## To Judge Means to “Lead to Reconciliation and Salvation”

- We see this illustrated in the life of Noah
  - **Genesis 6:5 NIV**, 5 The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.
  - **Genesis 8:8 NIV**, 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.
  - God’s judgement all around but God provided Noah a way of escape through His judgement

## To Judge Means to “Lead to Reconciliation and Salvation”

- We see this in the life of Noah
  - God waited 120 years for mankind to repent with His heart grieved
  - Peter described Noah as a “preacher of righteousness”
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:8-9 NIV**, 8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

## **To Judge Means the “Deliverance and Separation from the Wicked”**

- God as our Judge delivers us from condemnation and the rule of sin because He is the true Liberator
  - He is the Victor over Satan
  - He is more than able to deliver us from the addictions to sin
  - He is the Giver of freedom as He delivers us from the power of the evil one
  - Throughout the Bible those who experience God’s deliverance experience it through his judgment
  - God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt and set them free through His judgment upon the Egyptian gods

## To Judge Means the “Deliverance and Separation from the Wicked”

- God wants our freedom, and the original intention of His law was to protect our freedom
  - **Genesis 2:16-17 NIV**, “16 And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”
  - True freedom lies in accepting our limits and God’s instructions and discipline
  - **Proverbs 1:7 NIV**, “7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

## To Judge Means to “Vindicate and Display God’s Holiness, Mercy and Love”

- **Psalm 135:14 NIV**, “4 For the Lord will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants.”
  - Vindicate - show or prove to be right, reasonable, or justified
  - There is coming a day when our faith, the message of the Cross, and God’s perfect will, will be shown true, before all our accusers, harassers, those that make fun of our faith
  - Joseph was harassed and treated unfairly by his brothers because of his vision from God...proven true
  - Jesus was laughed at declaring a dead girl as only sleeping...proven true

## To Judge Means to “Vindicate and Display God’s Holiness, Mercy and Love”

- **Job 1:8-11 NIV**, 8 Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.”
  - 9 “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. 10 “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.”
- **Job 1:22 NIV**, 22 In all this, Job did not sin...proven true

## To Judge Means to “Vindicate and Display God’s Holiness, Mercy and Love”

- **Revelation 12:10-11 NIV**, “10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.
  - 11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”
- Our faith will be proven, and God’s holiness, mercy and love will be evident in and through His judgement of us throughout eternity

## God's Judgement Our Salvation

- Scripture tells us in **Romans 14:12 NIV**, “12 So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.”
  - We will be judged one more time at the end of the age
  - Not to decide your eternal placement
  - But God will legally secure our place in heaven in front of the heavenly court for all eternity

## God's Judgement Our Salvation

- God delights to overcome evil and the marriage supper of the lamb is a celebration of God's victory
  - **Revelation 19:6-8 NIV**, 6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:
    - “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.)

## God's Judgement Our Salvation

- God delights to overcome evil and the marriage supper of the lamb is a celebration of God's victory
  - The first fine linen to receive is our faith in Jesus Christ
  - **Genesis 15:6 NIV**, 6 Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.



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