

## **FIVE FACTS ABOUT THE FINAL JUDGMENT**

**John 5:24-30**

**by Andy Manning**

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. Were you ever frustrated when someone got away with something? O. J. Simpson. The Democrats who cheated in the 2020 election. We don't have to be frustrated, because the Bible teaches that there will be a day when God makes all things right; when He settles the scores; when He balances the scales; when He takes vengeance on the wicked and rewards the righteous. This day can be called the final judgment, and that's the focus of our study today.

### **II. TEXT: John 5:24-30**

*24 "Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life.*

*25 "Truly I tell you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he has granted to the Son to have life in himself. 27 And he has granted him the right to pass judgment, because he is the Son of Man. 28 Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear his voice 29 and come out—those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of condemnation.*

*30 "I can do nothing on my own. I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of him who sent me.*

### **III. FACTS**

#### **1. There will be a final judgment.**

- i. **John 5:24** "Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life."
- ii. The Bible has several different names for the final judgment:
  1. Mt 7:21-23 calls it "that day."
  2. **Matthew 12:36** calls it the "day of judgment." "I tell you that on the day of judgment people will have to account for every careless word they speak."
  3. 2 Pt 3:7 calls it the "day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly."
  4. 2 Pt 3:7-13 calls the "day of the Lord" and the "day of God."
  5. **Romans 2:5** calls it the "day of wrath." "Because of your hardened and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment is revealed."
  6. 1 Thess 1:10 calls it the "coming wrath."
  7. Jude 6 calls it the "great day."
  8. Rev 20:11-15 says that Christ will sit down to judge on a great white throne, and so it is often called the "Great White Throne Judgment."

iii. What will be judged?

1. Romans 2:16 says our secrets.
2. **Jeremiah 17:10** says our thoughts, hearts, and ways. "I, the Lord, examine the mind, I test the heart to give to each according to his way, according to what his actions deserve."
3. **Ecclesiastes 2:14** says all our actions, whether good or evil. "For God will bring every act to judgment, including every hidden thing, whether good or evil."
4. **1 Corinthians 4:5** says our motives and intentions. "So don't judge anything prematurely, before the Lord comes, who will both bring to light what is hidden in darkness and reveal the intentions of the hearts. And then praise will come to each one from God."
5. Jeremiah 32:19 says the results of our actions (not just our actions; not just our intentions; but the results/consequences of our behavior).
6. Matthew 12:36-37 says every word we speak.
7. Col 3:23-24 says whatever you do for the Lord, and whatever wrong you have done.
8. **Revelation 20:11-12** says that all your deeds, good and evil, are recorded in books kept in heaven. On Judgment Day the books will be opened, and you will be judged according to what is written. "11 Then I saw a great white throne and one seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. 12 I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books."

iv. There will be a final judgment, and every word, thought, and deed will be judged.

**2. Believers will not come under judgment.**

- i. **John 5:24** "Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life."
- ii. Believers will not come under judgment but will have eternal life.
- iii. Believers are described as...
  1. Anyone. Eternal life is available to all. It doesn't matter who you are or what you have done.
  2. Those who hear Christ's word and believe the Father who sent Him. Believers are those who accept Jesus Christ as the sinless, eternal Son of God, coequal with the Father; the only mediator between God and humanity. Those who worship Christ as the Lord of their lives.

3. Already having eternal life. "... anyone who hears my word and believes... has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life." Eternal life is both a future hope and a present reality for the Christian. Eternal life refers to both the duration of life, and the quality of life. Our life with God will go for eternity even after we die. But we immediately begin a higher quality of life in relationship with God the moment we believe.
4. Passing from death to life. "Death" here refers to spiritual death – the state of unbelievers who do not have a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. The Bible says that anyone who is not a Christian is spiritually dead.
  - a. **Ephesians 2:1-3** "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins 2 in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit now working in the disobedient. 3 We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also."
  - b. To be dead in your trespasses and sins means:
    - i. You fit in with the world, whereas believers stand out.
    - ii. You are under the control of the devil, whereas believers are freed from Satan's control.
    - iii. You live in sin, with self on the throne, whereas the believer lives to please not himself but His King, Jesus Christ.
  - c. William Barclay says being spiritually dead means four things:
    - i. It is someone who is not trying to please God.
    - ii. It is someone who doesn't feel affection for God and God's people.
    - iii. It is someone who feels no fear or remorse for sin.
    - iv. It is someone who doesn't desire to learn about God and know God more.
  - d. When you believe, you pass from death – spiritual death – to life – eternal life. You try to please God. You love God. You fear God and feel deep remorse for sin. And you have a deep desire to know God as intimately as possible.
5. Not coming under judgment.
  - a. Believes will be judged, but will not come under judgment. They will be judged, but they will not be condemned.
  - b. The Bible says that everyone – believers and unbelievers – must be judged.

- i. **Romans 14:10** “For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.”
  - ii. **Romans 14:12** “So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”
- c. Believers will be judged, but they will not be condemned.
  - i. **Romans 8:1** “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus.”
  - ii. **John 3:18** “Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.”
- d. If believers are judged but not condemned, then what is the purpose of the judgment?
  - i. At the final judgment, everyone’s deeds will be exposed.
    - 1. **Romans 14:12** “So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”
  - ii. Your sins will be forgiven through Christ, and your good deeds will be rewarded.
    - 1. **2 Corinthians 5:10** “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”
  - iii. God will declare your final destination.
    - 1. **Matthew 25:31-34, 41** “31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels, with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations, will be gathered before him, and he will separate them one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...’ 41 Then he will also say to those on the left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!’”

### 3. The Son gives life and passes judgment.

- i. **John 5:25** “Truly I tell you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.”
  1. In this passage Jesus speaks of the resurrection of the dead and the judgment, because they happen together.
  2. In this verse Jesus references both resurrections:
    - a. Truly I tell you, an hour is coming.
      - i. When Jesus comes back again, all the Christians who have died will be given their resurrected, glorified bodies. We’ll get into more detail about the resurrection in the next point. That is the second resurrection.
    - b. And is now here. Starting with the first coming of Jesus, when a spiritually dead person hears (believes and obeys) the Son of God (through God’s prevenient grace), he comes alive spiritually. This is the first resurrection.
    - c. The first resurrection is salvation – passing from spiritual death to spiritual life. The second resurrection is your glorification – receiving your new body at the return of Christ.
- ii. **John 5:26** “26 For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he has granted to the Son to have life in himself. 27 And he has granted him the right to pass judgment, because he is the Son of Man.”
  1. The purpose of this verse is to say that it is Jesus, the Son of God, who will give eternal life and pass judgment.
  2. This is another instance of Christ declaring Himself to be God by making Himself equal to the Father. In the OT, only God can give life and pass judgment, but here Jesus says that the Son of God does this things.
  3. The Bible leaves no doubt that Jesus will be the judge at the Final Judgment:
    - a. **John 5:22** “The Father, in fact, judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son”
    - b. **Acts 10:42** “He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be the judge of the living and the dead.”
- iii. “Because he is the Son of Man.” **John 5:27** “And he has granted him the right to pass judgment, because he is the Son of Man.”
  1. “Son of Man” is Jesus’ favorite title for Himself.
  2. It was a very common title for the Messiah in the first century.
  3. In the intertestamental literature, such as the Book of Enoch, the Son of Man is mentioned over and over as one who was waiting in heaven until God sends him to earth to bring in his kingdom.
  4. It comes from Daniel 7:13-14, which speaks of a God-man who will establish an everlasting kingdom.
  5. This was a very obvious declaration that Jesus was the Messiah.

#### 4. The judgment will follow the resurrection.

- i. **John 5:28-29** “28 Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear his voice 29 and come out—those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of condemnation.”
- ii. Here Jesus states the timing of the final judgment:
  1. In the future. “A time is coming.”
  2. Following the resurrection. “when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out.”
    - a. “All who are in their graves” refers to everyone who has died physically. Their souls are not in the graves, but their bodies are. When you die, your body stays in the ground, but your soul immediately goes to Heaven or to Hades (Lk 16).
    - b. Everyone who has ever lived will be given a resurrection body – both believers and unbelievers. The resurrection body of believers will be fit for their eternal home in the new heavens and earth; the resurrection body of the unbelievers will be fit for their eternal home in the lake of fire.
    - c. Then they will be judged. “those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of condemnation.” After the resurrection, all the living and dead will be judged.
  3. When Christ comes back.
    - a. This verse doesn’t say it, but the Bible states very clearly in several places that the resurrection and final judgment will occur when Jesus comes back.
    - b. **Matthew 16:27** “For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will reward each according to what he has done.”
- iii. To summarize the Bible’s teaching about the sequence of end-times events:
  1. The return (1 Cor 4:5). There are only two prophetic events that will occur before His return:
    - a. The apostasy – a time when many professing Christians will turn away from Christ.
    - b. The revealing of the man of lawlessness (whom some call the antichrist).
    - c. **2 Thessalonians 2:3, 8** “Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way. For that day will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction... The Lord Jesus will destroy him with the breath of his mouth and will bring him to nothing at the appearance of his coming.”
  2. The rapture and resurrection.

- a. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** “16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel’s voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are still alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.”
  - b. When Christ returns, He will give all believers, the living and the dead, their new glorified bodies.
  - c. As Christ is descending, first he will resurrect all those believers who have already died.
  - d. Then, those Christians who are still alive will rise to meet them in the air to receive their resurrection bodies.
  - e. But the next step is where many believers are confused. The biblical picture of the rapture is not of Christ taking Christians out of the world, but Christians who are alive at the time of Christ’s coming rising to meet Him in the air as He makes His kingly descent.
  - f. **Anthony Hoekema** “*Apantesis* (to meet) is a technical term used in New Testament times to describe a public welcome given by a city to a visiting dignitary. People would ordinarily leave the city to meet the distinguished visitor and then go back with him into the city. On the basis of the analogy conveyed by this word, all Paul is saying here is that raised and transformed believers are caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord as he descends from heaven, implying that after this joyful meeting they will go back with him to the earth.”
3. The reckoning.
- a. **Matthew 25:31-32** “31 When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels, with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations, will be gathered before him, and he will separate them one from another, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”

## 5. Christ’s judgment is just.

- i. **John 5:30** “I can do nothing on my own. I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of him who sent me.”
  - 1. We don’t need to fear the final judgment, because Christ says, “my judgment is just.”
  - 2. Acts 17:31 says that He will judge the world in righteousness.
  - 3. Romans 2:5-11 says that He will judge without favoritism.
  - 4. 1 Peter 1:17 says that He will judge impartially.
- ii. All those who have done wrong, they will not get away with it. They will be repaid. They will be punished.
- iii. But believers in Jesus Christ will be forgiven.

- iv. Earlier I mentioned Revelation 20:11-15. Everyone will stand before Christ and his great white throne to be judged. And the books will be opened that contain all of our deeds – good and bad. And these will be revealed. But it goes on to say that there is another book called the book of life. Those whose names are found in the book of life will not be punished. We will be saved. How do you get your name written in the book of life? You must accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and King.