

The Judgment

Scripture:- Acts 17: 1-14

Text:- Acts 17: 31.

My subject is the judgments of God. Every book of discipline has some word on the judgment. But in spite of the fact, the average man is not so much interested in the judgments of God. But in the true sense of the word, the judgments of God ought to be looked into by every Christian.

I.

The Bible is the wisest of all books, and it has so much to say about judgment that we dare not ignore it. Judgment was used on Adam and Eve. They proved disobedient to God, and judgment was visited upon them and their children.

God never punishes us in anger. That is to misunderstand us altogether. He only lets us suffer the inevitable consequences of the law.

As we turn to the N. T. we find the note of judgment sharpened. Paul, speaking before the intellectuals of the Areopagus, declares that God has appointed a day in which he will judge the world. Before Felix he reasoned of "righteousness, temperance, and judgment TO COME". In his letter to the Romans he declares that God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ. Writing to the Corinthians he declares that "we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ".

Where did Paul and the other writers of the N. T. get the idea of judgment? From the O. T. but largely from the lips of Jesus. In parable after parable he speaks of judgment. Take for instance the parable of the man with one talent, who was cast into outer darkness because he did not use his talent; the man who built his house upon the sand and saw the work of his hands come to an utter wreck, not because God was angry with him, but as the inevitable consequence of his own foolishness. The five wise and five foolish virgins, the rich Pharisee who gave a banquet

final judgment? I confess that I only can guess here. But it is my conviction that the final judgment is not to determine our destiny, but that we may enter into the fulness of our reward. We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. We shall see there the full of the right choices we have made.

III.

What is the basis of this judgment? I don't think you will be judged there for his orthodoxy. It will not be church affiliation. It won't be the place or position you have held in the church. What then, is the basis of judgment?

1. Every idle word. Our Lord says that we must give account of every idle word. What is the idle word. The unguarded word. The word that reveals the true man. We are to be judged for what we are. Character determines destiny.
2. Brotherliness expressed in costly kindness. Jesus in his picture of the last judgment shows two groups. One was not aware that they had done unto the Master good, such as seeing him sick, a stranger, naked, in prison. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" Here is Jesus tell us again that we are judged by what we are. Character determines destiny.
3. Finally, we are to be judged on our attitude toward Jesus Christ. "For judgment I am come into this world". When he was sentenced to death, Pilate and those associated with him were sentenced, judged, not our Lord. To reject him, is to prefer darkness to light. It thus to brand yourself as evil. Wrong choices lead to wrong character, wrong character leads to wrong destiny. Character determines destiny.

If we accept Christ as Savior, we have nothing to fear. "He that believeth on him is not condemned".