

An Impartial Judge

Read: Revelation 20:11-15

Main Idea: Be prepared to meet your Creator by living a life that reflects His values and grace, for His judgment is both impartial and eternal.

Key Verses: “And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.” **(Revelation 20:12, ESV)**

Key Principles:

- God’s throne represents absolute sovereignty and holiness; no aspect of creation can escape His sight or authority.
- The fleeing of earth and sky underscores the dissolution of the old order, calling Christians to live with eternal perspective amid a transient world.
- Judgment by works reveals the futility of self-righteousness, urging reliance on Christ’s imputed righteousness rather than personal deeds.
- The comprehensive resurrection of the dead highlights God’s impartiality, challenging believers to proclaim the gospel universally without favoritism.
- The second death in the lake of fire signifies eternal separation for those not in the Book of Life, motivating urgent evangelism and holy living.
- Salvation through the Book of Life points to grace alone, empowering believers to reflect God’s values in daily choices and relationships.

Discussion:

1. What does the great white throne teach us about preparing to stand before God? Share a time when recognizing God’s authority influenced your decisions.
2. In what ways does the text’s emphasis on the old creation fleeing away challenge our attachments to worldly things, and how can we cultivate an eternal mindset?
3. What does judgment according to works show about the inadequacy of human efforts, and how does this drive us toward dependence on Christ’s righteousness?
4. How does the universal scope of judgment model God’s impartiality, and what implications does this have for our witness to others?
5. Why is the lake of fire described as the second death, and how does understanding eternal separation compel us to address sin in our lives and share the gospel?
6. How does the Book of Life offer hope amid judgment, and what does this truth encourage you to do in pursuing a life aligned with God’s grace and values?

Prayer:

- Pray for conviction in areas where we resist God’s authority or cling to worldly things.
- Pray for:
 - Courage to reflect God’s values in our actions and relationships.
 - That we would experience the Spirit’s calling to live with eternal urgency.
 - Boldness to proclaim the gospel, knowing that everyone will stand before God.

The Impartial Judge
Revelation 20:11-15

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| I. | Unbelievers will <u>stand</u> before God's <u>throne</u>. | 20:11 |
| 1. | God is perfect in <u>purity</u> . | |
| 2. | God is perfect in <u>authority</u> . | |
| II. | Unbelievers will <u>experience</u> God's <u>judgment</u>. | 20:12-13 |
| 1. | There is no <u>excuse</u> . | 20:12 |
| 2. | There is no <u>defense</u> . | 20:13 |
| III. | Unbelievers are <u>separated</u> from God's <u>presence</u>. | 20:14-15 |
| 1. | There is no <u>escape</u> . | 20:14 |
| 2. | There is one <u>hope</u> . | 20:15 |

NEXT WEEK:
Feasting with the King
1 Corinthians 11:23-34