

# Two Final Exams!

## 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-15

East Berlin Community Church

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### Introduction

- The fear of final exams
- Final exams from my school experience
- Every person at the end of their lives will face a final exam or judgment.
  - Hebrews 9:27-- *"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment"*
  - Psalm 9:7-8-- *"But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. He shall judge the world in righteousness, and He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness."*

## Two Final Exams!

### A. For the Believer: The Judgment Seat of Christ

- 2 Corinthians 5:10-- *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."*
1. **It will be a day for...**
    - a. **Clarification**
      - 1 Corinthians 4:5-- *"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God."*
    - b. **Commendation**
    - c. **Conciliation**
  2. **Our life's work will be evaluated and rewarded.**
    - 1 Corinthians 3:9-15-- *"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire."*
  3. **Missing: CONDEMNATION!**
    - a. **Jesus Christ has secured our eternal destiny.**
      - 1 Peter 3:18-- *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit."*
    - b. **When we trusted Christ as Savior, we passed from the realm of death to life.**
      - John 5:24-- *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."*

### B. For the Unbeliever: The Great White Throne Judgment

- Revelation 20:11-15-- *"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged*

according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."

1. **The Timing:** After the Kingdom age and the destruction of the heavens and earth, and before the creation of a new heavens and earth and the Eternal Kingdom. This is the very LAST JUDGMENT!
2. **The Judges**
  - a. **God the Father, the "Ancient of Days"**
    - Daniel 7:9-10-- *"I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened."*
  - b. **Jesus Christ**
    - Revelation 3:21--*"To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."*
    - John 5:22-- *"For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son."*
    - Acts 10:42-- *"He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead."*
3. **The Location:** Somewhere between heaven and earth
4. **The Defendants-- the "dead"**
  - Revelation 20:12-13-- *"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works."*
  - a. **Identification**
    - 1) Not those who have "died in Christ" or Old Testament saints or tribulation saints, or those believers who have lived through the Millennial kingdom age.
    - 2) But all unbelievers from the beginning of time to the last person to die in the rebellion at the end of the Millennium.
  - b. **Two Future Resurrections**
    - John 5:28-29-- *"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."*
    - Daniel 12:2 -- *"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt."*
    - 1) The First is for believers resulting in eternal life.
    - 2) The Second Resurrection is for unbelievers resulting in condemnation and everlasting contempt.
      - a) Doesn't matter where they might have been buried.
        - Revelation 20:13a-- *"The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them."*
      - b) Their physical bodies will be reunited with their conscious souls which have been kept in "death and Hades"

- (1) "death" the Hebrew equivalent for "Sheol"-- the holding place for the unbeliever
- (2) "Hades", the Greek equivalent for "Sheol"

- c) Important to note that living unbelievers will one day stand before Jesus Christ at the Great White Throne Judgment to give an account.
- d) Satan's deception from the beginning-- no future judgment.
  - Genesis 3:4 -- *"You shall not surely die!"*

5. **The Trial. The Judge will be...**

a. **Impartial-- He shows no favoritism**

- Revelation 20:12a-- *"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened."*
- 2 Chronicles 19:7-- *"Now therefore, let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take care and do it, for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, no partiality, nor taking of bribes."*
- Ephesians 6:9-- *"And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him."*
- Colossians 3:25-- *"But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality."*
- 1 Peter 1:17-- *"And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear."*
- Job 34:19 -- *"Yet He is not partial to princes, nor does He regard the rich more than the poor; For they are all the work of His hands."*

b. **Factual-- Based on the truth concerning the individual**

- Revelation 20:12-13 -- *"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works."*

1) **They will be judged according to their works, what they have done.**

- Romans 2:6-- *"who will render to each one according to his deeds"*
- Job 34:11-- *"For He repays man according to his work, and makes man to find a reward according to his way."*
- Jeremiah 17:10-- *"I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings."*
- Matthew 16:27 -- *"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."*

2) **They will be judged according to their words, what they have said.**

- Matthew 12:36-37-- *"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."*

3) **Those things done in secret will also be brought to light.**

- Romans 2:16-- *"God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ!"*
- Luke 8:17-- *"For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light."*
- Ecclesiastes 12:14-- *"For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil."*

4) **Results in a FULL, IMPARTIAL ACCOUNTING of every act, every word, every thought.**

- c. **Just-- Based on God's Standard, not man's**
- 1) People today believe that God will use a "weighted system" of justice so if the "good" outweighs the "bad" you make it to heaven. But is that fair?
  - 2) **God holds man to the highest standard: His holiness**
    - Matthew 5:48-- *"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."*
  - 3) **Everyone falls short of God's standard.**
    - James 2:10-- *"whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."*
    - Romans 3:23-- *"all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God!"*
  - 4) **No one will be able to plead ignorance of God's standard.**
    - a) **Creation reveals God's righteousness**
      - Romans 1:20-- *"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse."*
      - Romans 1:21-23 -- *"although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things."*
    - b) **Our conscience has God's law written on our hearts.**
      - Romans 2:14-15-- *"for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)"*
  - 5) **Those with more revelation from God are held to a higher standard.**
    - Romans 2:12-- *"For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law"*
6. **The Deciding Piece of Evidence: The Book of Life**
- Revelation 20:12-- *"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books."*
- a. **It records the names of those who are citizens of heaven.**
    - Revelation 3:5-- *"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."*
    - Revelation 17:8 -- *"The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."*
    - 1) The names of the "elect" who were chosen before the foundation of the world and whose names were recorded then.
    - 2) Or, the names of all living, recorded in the book when they are conceived and whose names are blotted out when they die in unbelief, thus leaving a blank space where their names should be.
  - b. **In that day many will protest the final verdict**
    - Matthew 7:22-- *"Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?"*
    - Matthew 7:23-- *"I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"*
  - c. **The importance of "TODAY" to be ready for final exam and for eternity.**