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JUDGMENT DAY ?

Are you ready for Judgment Day? Before you answer that, what is it, anyway?

People have lots of interesting ideas about “Judgment Day.” Not the movie by that title – but the final tally of the right and wrong of mankind by the Creator, as explained in the Bible.

In fact, you want a judgment day. Because people are created in the image of God, you have a sense of right and wrong. You intuitively know when things don’t seem fair. You get upset when wrong seems to triumph. You want things to be set right.

Some people are tempted to take a vigilante approach and carry out that final judgment themselves. Perhaps unbelievers do that in making judgments about believers, whose lives have changed so much they have little left in common with people who live solely for their earthly existence, instead of eternity.

1 Peter 4 talks about judgment in very clear terms. He says (v7) “the end of all things is at hand.” In light of eternity, it is right around the corner. Peter also says (v5) everyone “will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.” To God, your Creator, and your Judge.

God is not only ready to judge, He is able. He is the only one able to judge, because He created us. In the final analysis, we are answerable to Him alone. That day is coming for the living, when Christ returns and ushers in the consummation of creation, and for the dead when Christ returns and all are raised to face final judgment.

Most people think they’re pretty good at making excuses and rationalizations for all they do and say and think. Maybe you can fool or convince yourself or others, but God is perfectly holy and all-knowing. He knows the intents of your heart as well as the consequences of your words and actions. You can’t escape Him. That’s a very sobering prospect.

Most people think they’ll be judged in comparison to other people, and many people tend to think they’re better than others. But the Bible says you’ll be judged by your own thoughts and words and deeds, in comparison to God Himself, who is perfect. He’s the measure. And when you’re judged against perfection, you’re far closer to Hitler, Stalin and Mao than you are to Christ.

Jesus has intercepted the timeline of human history before. We mark our calendars by His birth – when the divine Son of God came to earth to be born as a human child, to live a perfect life and die a perfect death and be raised to perfect life, so that all who trust in Him as Lord and Savior have new eternal life.

That’s the good news! The bad news is that Christ will soon intercept the timeline of human history again. This time, all who reject Him as Lord and Savior will be found to not have new eternal life. They have chosen their own condemnation. Scripture says “All have sinned and fall short of the perfect glory of God” – but the freely given gift of God is salvation through Jesus Christ. God is not only Judge, but Savior!

All who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior will be judged as having been forgiven of their sins, because He paid the penalty. And the good news is that the bad news can be overcome! You need not fear the final judgment if you are saved by Christ!

So instead of denying a final judgment, or procrastinating doing something about it, not wanting to deal with it, why not prepare for it? You can be ready this moment, simply by trusting in Jesus alone.

He will not only save you, He will transform you -- and that’s good news!