

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Lesson #34

Judged by works

09/15/2019

## Divine Judgment

Is the  
foundation  
of the Gospel



2 Cor.5:21

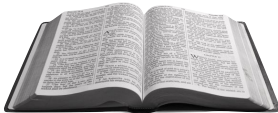
"He made Him who  
knew no sin to be  
sin on our behalf,"

Rom.5:9

"having now  
been justified by  
His blood, we  
shall be saved  
from the wrath  
of God through  
Him"

1

## How to read the Old Testament



Justified by faith  
but judged by  
works?



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2

John 5

"24 Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.**"

"28 Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, 29 and shall come forth; **those who did the good {deeds} to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil {deeds} to a resurrection of judgment.**"

John 6

"28 They said therefore to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.**"

3

Faith or / with / that Works



Final  
Judgment



4

**IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**  
the final judgment is consistently based  
on **WORKS** (not FAITH).

2 Corinthians 5:10

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, **according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**"

5

## Following is a list of texts that link the final judgment with works (not faith).

Eccl.3:17, Job.34:10-11, Ps.62:11-12,  
Prov.24:12, Isa.59:18, **Jer.17:10**, 32:18-19,  
Ezek.24:14, Hos.12:2

**Matt.6:1-6,14-15**, 7:15-23, 10:41-42, 12:33-37,  
16:27, **25:31-46**, Mk.13:13, **Jn.5:25-29**,

**Rom.2:6-13**, 14:10-12, 1 Cor.3:8-17, 6:9-11,  
2 Cor.5:10, 11:15, **Gal.5:16-26**, **6:7-9**, **Eph.5:5-6**,  
**Col.3:5-6**, **24-25**, Heb.10:26-30, 1 Jn.2:3-6,  
3:3-10,24, 4:11-12,17, 5:3,18, **Jas.2:14-26**, 1 Pet.  
1:17, 4:17-18, 2 Pet.1:5-11, **Rev.14:12-13**,  
**20:11-15**, 21:7-8, 22:12

6

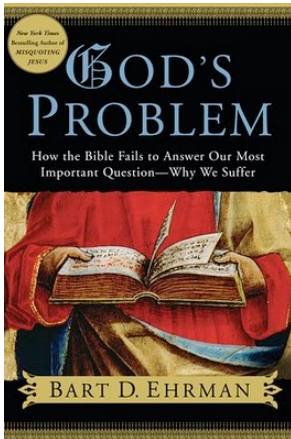
## Sources of hope at the final judgment:

View #1 **Dismissal** - Remove the standard of holiness  
so that there is no offense.

• A loving God would never condemn anyone.



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## Theodicy

- the justification of God

Ehrman's real problem  
is not that the Bible  
fails to answer the  
problem of suffering it  
is that Ehrman doesn't  
like the way the Bible  
addresses it.

8

Emile Durkheim

"The Bible tells us that God made man in  
His image. Ever since the creation man has  
been trying to return the favor."

C S Lewis

"My argument against God was that the  
universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But  
how had I got this idea of just and unjust?"

H. Richard Niebuhr

"The theology of liberal protestantism was a  
God without wrath who brought men without  
sin into a kingdom without judgment through  
the ministrations of a Christ without a cross."

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## Sources of hope at the final judgment:

View #1 **Dismissal** - Remove the standard of holiness  
so that there is no offense.

View #2 **Empowerment** - Enable believers to meet the  
standard by the power of the Holy Spirit.

• The Holy Spirit empowers believers to  
fulfill the Law as a sign of saving faith.

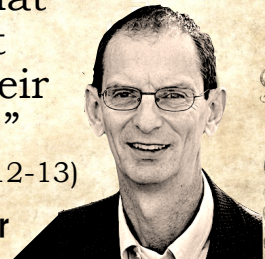


10

There is no salvation apart  
from obedience or good  
works. Indeed, Paul  
emphasized that  
believers must  
accomplish their  
own salvation."

(Phil.2:12-13)

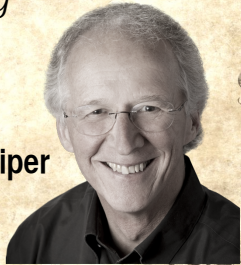
Tom Schreiner  
(Southern Baptist  
Theological Seminary)




11



“We must learn to make the biblical distinction between earning eternal life *on the basis of works*, (which the Bible does *not* teach!) and receiving eternal life *according to works* (which the Bible does teach!).”



John Piper



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## Sources of hope at the final judgment:

View #1 **Dismissal** - Remove the standard of holiness so that there is no offense.

View #2 **Empowerment** - Enable believers to meet the standard by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Does this pay enough respect to:

- the extent of God's **Holiness**?
- the significance of the **Cross**?
- the point of the **Reformation**?
- the role of the **Spirit**?



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### Romans 3

“<sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and **the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**”

“<sup>28</sup> For we maintain that **a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.**”

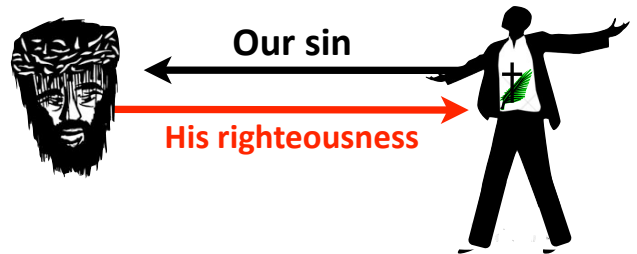
### Romans 4:5

“But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him **who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,**”

14

### 2 Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so **that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”



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## Sources of hope at the final judgment:

View #1 **Dismissal** - Remove the standard of holiness so that there is no offense.

View #2 **Empowerment** - Enable believers to meet the standard by the power of the Holy Spirit.

View #3 **Redemption / Rewards** - Believers are clothed with Christ's righteousness and rewarded for bearing God's image in the Body of Christ.

- This judgment is not about eternal life but about “**rewards**” and “**loss**” in ministry.
- Believers are rewarded for **exercising their freedom from sin.**
- This may have something to do with our **worship posture in the Kingdom.**



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### 1. **Believers** will not face judgment or condemnation **but have already passed into life!**

### John 5:24

“truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and **does not come into judgment**, but has passed out of death into life.”

### Romans 8:1

“Therefore there is now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**”

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## 2. *Our hope is not in the Law or the Holy Spirit but in the Cross & Resurrection of Christ!*

Hebrews 7:18-19

“For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of **a better hope**, through which we draw near to God.”

Our better hope is in Jesus' life and death **FOR** us not in the Law fulfilled **THROUGH** us by the Holy Spirit.



18

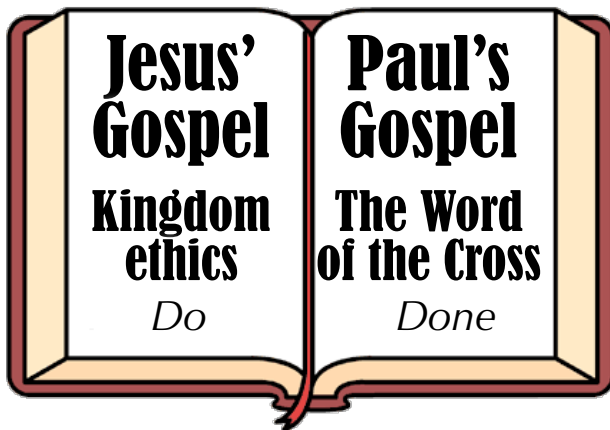
## Three stumbling blocks to Gospel truths

1. Confusing the New and Old covenants
2. Confusing the work of Christ and the work of the Spirit



19

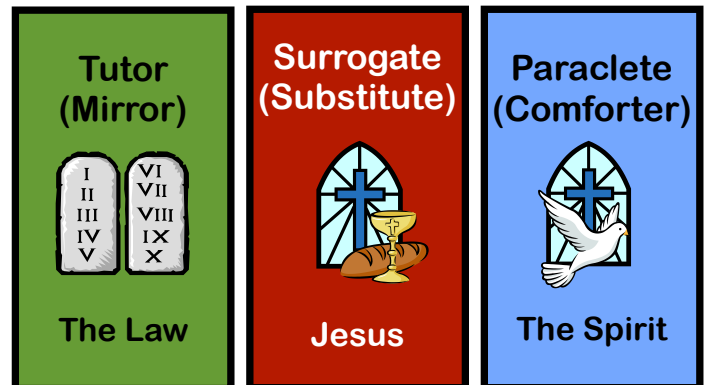
## Jesus and Paul



The order is consistent and significant

20

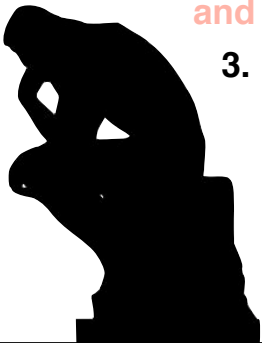
Don't confuse the ministries of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.



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## Three stumbling blocks to Gospel truths

1. Confusing the New and Old covenants
2. Confusing the work of Christ and the work of the Spirit
3. Confusing positional holiness through the Imputed righteousness by faith and practiced holiness through love



22

Two types of righteousness



23

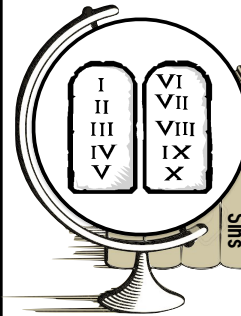
## Revelation 20

### John's version of the Final Judgement

"<sup>11</sup> And I saw a **great white throne**, . . . <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and **the books were opened**: and **another book was opened, which is the book of life**: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead, which were in it; and death and Hades delivered up the dead, which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. <sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> **And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**"

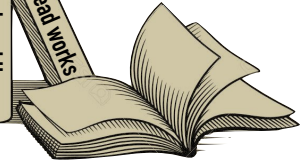
24

"<sup>11</sup> And I saw a **great white throne**, . . . <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and **the books were opened**:



Sins  
Self righteousness  
Misplaced Hope  
Dead works

and **another book was opened, which is the book of life**:



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## General Judgment

### of every person

All those "in Christ" whose names are in the Book of Life



Clothed with the righteousness of Christ

**No condemnation**

All those in the "book of death"\* are judged on the basis of their own deeds.



Clothed with their own righteousness

**Condemnation**

\* Jubilees 36:10

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## Three stumbling blocks to Gospel truths

1. Confusing the New and Old covenants
2. Confusing the work of Christ and the work of the Spirit
3. Confusing positional holiness through the Imputed righteousness by faith and practiced holiness through love
4. Confusing the reward OF heaven with rewards IN heaven.



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## The judgment of believers

**Bema (step)  
speakers platform  
judgment seat**



28

## 1 Corinthians 3

"<sup>11</sup> For no man can lay a **foundation** other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if any man **builds upon the foundation** with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work."

**How we build on our saving faith is the issue.**

**"The day" = judgment day (1 Cor.1:8)**

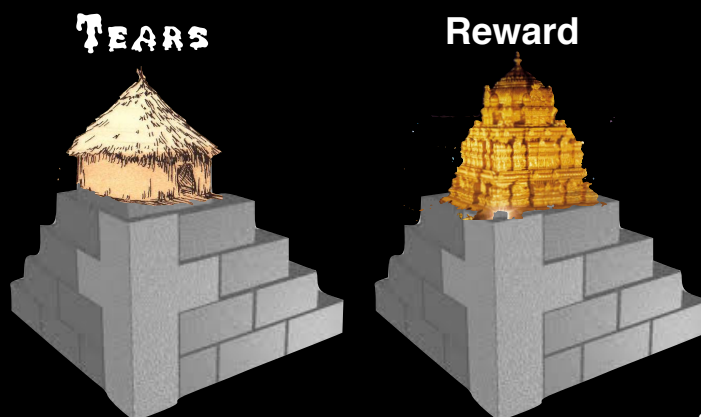


“<sup>14</sup> If any man’s work which he has built upon it remains, he shall **receive a reward**. <sup>15</sup> If any man’s work is burned up, he shall **suffer loss**; but **he himself shall be saved**, yet so as through fire.”

**Reward and loss (not salvation) is the result of the believer’s judgment.**

30

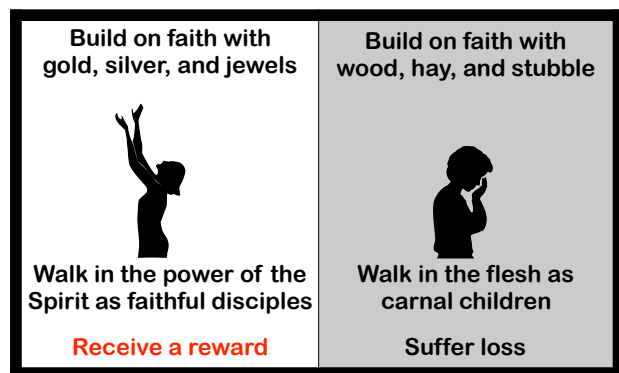
## The images of 1 Cor.3



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## Bema Judgment

### of every believer



32

## Bema Judgment

### Suffer the loss of what?

Having all of our sinful attitudes and actions exposed.

Knowing the satisfaction of experiencing the power of Christ’s Spirit in life and ministry.



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## 1 Corinthians 4:5

“Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and **disclose the motives of men’s hearts**; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God.”

**Disclosure of what was hidden is the final judgment for believers.**

## Revelation 21:4

“and **He will wipe away every tear from their eyes**; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

**In the end there will be tears but they will be wiped away.**

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## Bema Judgment

### of every believer



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