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Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

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## **Judgment Day**

### **Revelation 20:11-15**

In June of 2007, I was in Greece with my daughter, Jenny, to preach at a missionary conference. We had the opportunity to visit the Acropolis, with its famous ancient ruin standing hundreds of feet over the modern, bustling city of Athens. As we were climbing up the winding road to the top of that famous mountain, I saw a small, rocky outcropping, a little rocky knob jutting out of the side of that mountain. I saw a small sign and some stairs leading up to the top of that rocky knob... As we walked over to it, I suddenly realized what it was... it was Mars Hill, the place where the Apostle Paul had preached the gospel to the Greek Stoic and Epicurean philosophers that met there every day to talk about and listen to the latest ideas. These brilliant but arrogant men demeaned and insulted Paul, but his words were recorded by the Holy Spirit in Acts 17, and were cast in raised Greek letters in a small bronze plaque and mounted there. His message ended with these words:

*Acts 17:31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.*

When these brilliant Greek philosophers of Athens heard these words, they sneered and mocked. But a few of them wanted to hear more.

**GOD HAS SET A DAY WHEN HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD WITH JUSTICE BY ONE MAN... the man he raised from the dead... Jesus Christ!**

As Jenny and I stood and looked at those words, most of the tourists and guides walked by the plaque without even a glance. Actually, on the rock where the plaque was mounted, there was ugly graffiti from irreverent people. Far down below, the modern residents of Athens drove to and from their places of business and their residences, many of them without a single thought to the central reality of Paul's message and of this text this morning...

**JUDGMENT DAY!**

That is true all over the world, including here in Durham, North Carolina.

Tomorrow, as the sun comes up on another workweek in America, stock traders in New York will be riding the subway to Wall Street to make more money for themselves and their clients; legislative assistants in Washington will arrive at their offices for another day of phone calls to push their Senator's agendas; professors of religion in Chapel Hill will be lecturing students on their views of unbelief; professional athletes will be going through their pregame rituals of stretching, mental preparations, and arranging tickets for family and friends to see them play; busy parents will be dropping off their kids at school in their minivans; homeless people and undocumented aliens will be struggling just to survive; literally millions... hundreds of millions... of such people will not give a single thought to JUDGMENT DAY... the day that we must all appear in court to answer for our lives.

That is the day that Revelation 20:11-15 describes... the Final Judgment, Man's Last Day in Court... the last act of this present evil age in which we have been born and lived our lives

The very next action in Revelation will be glorious:

***Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away***

## I. The Great White Throne (vs. 11)

### A. The Final Day of Human History

1. Human history is linear... Jesus Christ made this very plain

***Revelation 22:12-13 "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.***

2. Eastern religions posit an endless cycle of birth, death, and reincarnation, and the effort to escape karma... this endless cycle
3. The Bible teaches that history had a beginning, is making progress, and will have an end

***Hebrews 9:27 man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment***

4. Paul calls this our "present evil age"

***Galatians 1:3-4 the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> ... gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age***

5. This present evil age is defined by the defiant rebellion of the human race, led in secret by Satan and his demons
6. It seems like it will go on forever, but the scripture makes it very plain that it will end in something called JUDGMENT DAY

B. The Consistent Teaching of Scripture: Judgment Day is Coming

***Psalm 96:13 the LORD... comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth***

***Jude 1:14-15 "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones <sup>15</sup> to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."***

C. Satan Has Tried to Deceive Us About this

***Genesis 3:4 "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.***

D. Unbelievers Deny or Minimize It

***Psalm 94:3-7 How long will the wicked, O LORD, how long will the wicked be jubilant? <sup>4</sup> They pour out arrogant words; all the evildoers are full of boasting. <sup>5</sup> They crush your people, O LORD; they oppress your inheritance. <sup>6</sup> They slay the widow and the alien; they murder the fatherless. <sup>7</sup> They say, "The LORD does not see; God ... pays no heed."***

***Psalm 10:4-6 In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God. <sup>5</sup> His ways are always prosperous; he is haughty and your laws are far from him; he sneers at all his enemies. <sup>6</sup> He says to himself, "Nothing will shake me; I'll always be happy and never have trouble."***

E. The Center of Judgment Day: A Great White Throne... and Someone Seated on It

1. This throne we can only see by faith!!
2. The more we keep judgment day in front of us by faith and by the Word of God, the less regrets we'll have on that day

***Acts 24:15-16 there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. <sup>16</sup> So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.***

3. Throne = place where a King sits... here to judge
  - a. God is the creator of the ends of the earth

- b. Because he made everything, it is his... he made it, he owns it, he can rule it as he sees fit

***Proverbs 20:8 When a king sits on his throne to judge, he winnows out all evil with his eyes.***

- c. The King has given LAWS by which we are to live
  - i) The Ten Commandments
  - ii) The Two Great Commandments
- d. The essence of sin is rebellion against the King
- e. The essence of salvation is entering the Kingdom and submitting to the King

***Mark 1:15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"***

***Matthew 11:29-30 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."***

#### 4. "Great White"

- a. The throne is described as a GREAT WHITE throne
- b. Great = imposing, majestic, large so as to make us feel small by comparison
- c. White = pure, holy, free from blame

***Deuteronomy 32:3-4 I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! <sup>4</sup> He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.***

God's justice is of his essence... he can never do anything unjust or unrighteous

***Psalm 36:6 Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep.***

F. God Has Entrusted All Judgment to Christ

***John 5:22-23 the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, <sup>23</sup> that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father.***

***John 5:27 And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.***

**Matthew 25:31-32** *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.*

The judgment of Christ is perfectly in harmony with the will of his Father:

G. Christ Judges in Perfect Righteousness

**John 5:30** *By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.*

**Isaiah 11:2-4** *The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD-- <sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.*

So I believe that Jesus Christ himself will be the one to sit on the Great White Throne to judge the entire earth

H. Does Judgment Day Come in Stages?

1. Many evangelical commentators teach that judgment of the human race comes in stages
2. They believe not everyone will stand before God in this Great White Throne judgment
3. Those who believe in a literal millennium say that those who took part in the first resurrection will not be here, for example
4. They make a strong distinction between this Great White Throne judgment and the Bema seat judgment of works that Paul teaches in 2 Corinthians

**2 Corinthians 5:10** *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

5. They say that no Christian has to stand before God in judgment because of this verse

**Romans 8:1** *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*

6. However, the Sheep and the Goats teaching implies both the righteous and the wicked are assembled together at the same time

***Matthew 25:31-33 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup> He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.***

***Matthew 25:46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."***

7. So also Romans 14 seems to say the same thing:

***Romans 14:10-12 we will all stand before God's judgment seat. <sup>11</sup> It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'" <sup>12</sup> So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.***

8. There is a big difference between giving an account of our lives and being condemned to hell...
9. I am of the mind that this Great White Throne judgment will involve every single person who has ever lived in human history...
10. Either way, however, we can all agree that this judgment is the LAST JUDGMENT... never again will there be any trial, and never again will God sit to judge sinners for their sins

## II. The End of the Present Universe (vs. 11)

***Revelation 20:11 Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.***

### A. Awesome Reality: Everything Around Us Will Be Destroyed

1. It is difficult to fathom what these words mean
2. It's almost like earth and sky are terrified of Jesus Christ and they are seeking to flee from him but they cannot escape

***Psalm 139:7-10 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? <sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. <sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, <sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.***

3. BUT another way to understand these words is that this is the end of the created order as we know it

4. As we will see in the next chapter

***Revelation 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.***

Christ as the Judge of the Universe is MORE PERMANENT than the heavens and the earth:

***Hebrews 1:10-12 "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. <sup>11</sup> They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. <sup>12</sup> You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."***

B. Uncreated or Regenerated?

1. Big question: will the next universe be made out of the stuff of the present universe
2. Will this present groaning decaying earth be purified, or rehabilitated and thus renewed and made ready for the next world
3. Or,

as Donald Grey Barnhouse puts it "There is to be an end of the material heavens and earth which we know. It is not that they are to be purified and rehabilitated, but the REVERSE OF CREATION is to take place. They are to be UNCREATED (spoken out of existence). As they came from nothingness at the word of God, they are to be sucked back into nothingness by this same word of God."

4. Peter's strong assertion:

***2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.***

The word "elements" = *stoixeia*... the literal atoms themselves will come apart resulting in a fiery conflagration

Einstein's famous formula  $E = mc^2$  links mass and energy... tiny amounts of plutonium result in massive release of energy in a thermonuclear bomb

At the end of the world, the actual elements will be destroyed in fire with a ROAR... a massive explosion

However, that doesn't deter me from saying that the New Earth will be as linked to the old earth as our resurrection bodies are linked to our present decaying bodies

I think of a RESURRECTED EARTH! There must be some connection!!

### C. The Case for a Resurrected Universe

#### 1. Words like "renewal" are used

***Matthew 19:28 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.***

***Acts 3:21 He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.***

#### 2. Even more importantly, the promise to Abraham:

***Genesis 13:14-15 The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. <sup>15</sup> All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.***

***Genesis 17:8 The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God."***

***Hebrews 11:13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.***

***Hebrews 11:16 they were longing for a better country-- a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.***

God will give a RESURRECTED EARTH to Abraham and to his offspring forever... not an entirely different earth, but one cleaned from decay:

Paul links this earth and our resurrection bodies!!!!!!

***Romans 8:20-23 the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. <sup>23</sup> Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.***

### D. Either Way... Make Way for the New Heavens and New Earth



Either way, the New Heavens and New Earth will be radiantly beautiful, free at last from all the vestiges of human sin and decay and corruption

### III. All the Dead Arraigned in Court (vs. 12, 13)

***Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne***

- A. Every Single Human Being Will Stand Before God's Judgment Throne
- B. They Were Dead... Now They Are Alive in Resurrection Bodies, Fit for Eternity

***John 5:28-29 "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and come out-- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.***

- C. Great and Small... No Exceptions

John Phillips (from MacArthur, p. 251) "There is a terrible fellowship there... the dead, small and great, stand before God. Dead souls are united to dead bodies in a fellowship of horror and despair. Little men and paltry women whose lives were filled with pettiness, selfishness, and nasty little sins will be there. Those whose lives amounted to nothing will be there, whose very sins were drab and dowdy, mean, spiteful, peevish, groveling, vulgar, common, and cheap. The great will also be there, men who sinned with a high hand, with dash, and courage and flair. Men like Alexander and Napoleon, Hitler and Stalin will be present, men who went in for wickedness on a grand scale with the world for their stage and who died unrepentant at last. Now one and all are arraigned and on their way to be damned: a horrible fellowship congregated together for the first and last time."

What a powerful picture!

When Hitler committed suicide in that reinforced concrete bunker in Berlin so that he wouldn't have to face the rage of the Soviet army, he thought he was escaping judgment. Little did he know that a far more terrifying enemy awaited him after death.

I also think about how SMALL SINNERS will be there too, unrepentant for their SMALL SINS, not realizing that any sin is a violation of the INFINITE GLORY OF GOD.

I think about elderly unbelievers, picture older men, sitting in rocking chairs on the front porch of a drab house in a small town, rocking, drinking iced tea, gossiping, telling crude jokes, whiling away their retirement years doing nothing to help another human being. They are SMALL TIME... not

Hitler, not Stalin... but NOT REPENTANT either. They die and are arraigned to this tribunal

D. No Escape... I think about Federal Marshalls dispatched to bring a fugitive to justice... not a single unrepentant sinner will escape notice or justice

***Amos 9:1-3 Not one will get away, none will escape. <sup>2</sup> Though they dig down to the depths of the grave, from there my hand will take them. Though they climb up to the heavens, from there I will bring them down. <sup>3</sup> Though they hide themselves on the top of Carmel, there I will hunt them down and seize them. Though they hide from me at the bottom of the sea, there I will command the serpent to bite them.***

E. The Sea, Death, Hades All Give Up their Dead (vs. 13)

***Revelation 20:13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them***

1. The sea will soon be destroyed...
2. But before that happens, all the sailors, merchants, commercial fishermen, wealthy people on a cruise... anyone who died and was buried at sea will be there... their resurrection unto judgment will not be avoided

The victims of the Titanic... down at the cold bottom of the Atlantic... their bodies will be raised and brought to this judgment

Everyone eaten by a great white shark, or who fell overboard in a tropical storm, or who died of dysentery on a wooden British ship of the line and was buried with military honors at sea

3. Death and Hades

- a. Refers to the present HOLDING PLACE of the bodies and souls of sinners who died before the end of the world... death and the GRAVE
- b. Most people die and are buried on land or cremated
- c. Their bodies will come together in order to be judged and condemned
- d. Death and the corruption of the grave will not longer be needed
- e. Their new home will be the Lake of Fire if they are wicked... or the New Heavens and New Earth if they are the righteous

F. We Are Accountable to Our Creator, Our King

1. This tribunal makes very plain

2. We are all of us to give an account to the King of the universe

#### IV. Books Are Opened: The Book of Deeds and the Book of Life (vs. 12)

***Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.***

##### A. Books: God's Accurate Record-Keeping

1. God is a very meticulous record keeper, with a perfect memory
2. Much of the Bible involves history, even of very obscure people (like the great grandsons of Ishmael or Esau)
3. The very hairs of our heads are all numbered
4. So were all the days of our lives written in God's book before one of them came to be
5. Two verses speak of the detailed nature of judgment day

***Matthew 12:36 I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.***

One study by a team of linguists estimates that people speak approximately 20,000 words per day. Over the course of 80 years of speaking, that amounts to over 500 million words

Even CARELESS WORDS that you forget a few minutes later... "What did I say? What did I say?" You can't even remember... but God has recorded it in his book

Also:

***2 Peter 3:8 With the Lord a day is like a thousand years***

God sees every moment of a day in super-slow motion, and remembers absolutely everything that has ever happened.

The perfect record-keeper.

##### B. God's Judgment is Perfectly Just and Righteous

1. We've already established this

2. We will not be able to answer God back or question him

***Job 9:14 "How then can I dispute with him? How can I find words to argue with him?"***

3. He will have no need of witnesses or evidence or DNA testing

***Genesis 18:13 Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh***

***Genesis 18:15 Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."***

4. For the Damned: There will be a prosecutor, but no defense attorney
5. The Judge will be enraged at them

To borrow the language of Jonathan Edwards's "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"

"The God that holds [them] over the Pit of Hell, much as one holds a Spider, or some loathsome Insect, over the Fire, abhors [them], and is dreadfully provoked; his Wrath towards [them] burns like Fire; he looks upon [them] as worthy of nothing else, but to be cast into the Fire; he is of purer Eyes than to bear to have [them] in his Sight; [they] are ten thousand Times so abominable in his Eyes as the most hateful venomous Serpent is in ours. [They] have offended him infinitely more than ever a stubborn Rebel did his Prince: and yet 'tis nothing but his Hand that holds [them] from falling into the Fire every Moment."

C. The Book of Deeds: A Perfect Record of Everything We Have Done

1. Our works perfectly describe the person

***Revelation 20:13 each person was judged according to what he had done.***

***Matthew 7:16-20 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.***

2. Christ is the perfect fruit inspector... he cannot be deceived, but knows the nature of the tree by the fruit it bore over its lifetime
3. Romans 2 makes it plain everyone is evaluated by WORKS

***Romans 2:5-11 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. <sup>6</sup> God "will give to each person according***

*to what he has done." <sup>7</sup> To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. <sup>8</sup> But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. <sup>9</sup> There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; <sup>10</sup> but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>11</sup> For God does not show favoritism.*

The works will perfectly identify the person

We will be evaluated by our works

There are two different ways to live

Those with fruit showing a regenerate heart will be seen as regenerate; those with fruit showing an unregenerate heart will be identified as unregenerate

#### D. Christ Also Probes the Heart

1. Though the full catalog of a person's words are sufficient to identify them accurately, Jesus actually probes the heart and motive as well
2. That's the whole point of the sermon on the mount

*Matthew 5:21-22 "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' <sup>22</sup> But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca, 'is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.*

*Matthew 5:27-30 "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.' <sup>28</sup> But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup> If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup> And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.*

3. Jesus probes the heart to see the true MOTIVES behind every action

*Revelation 2:23 I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.*

*1 Corinthians 4:5 He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts.*

4. Nothing is secret on that day

***Romans 2:16 on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ***

***Luke 12:2-5 There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. <sup>3</sup> What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs. <sup>4</sup> ¶ "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. <sup>5</sup> But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.***

E. The Book of Life: Salvation by Grace Through Faith Apart from Deeds

***Revelation 20:12 Another book was opened, which is the book of life.***

1. The book of life is the record of all those who are regenerate, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world
2. These are also sinners, just as much as those who are condemned
3. They have all violated God's holy laws, and have sinned
4. BUT God is not counting their sins against them...
5. At some point in their lives, they heard and believed the gospel and crossed over from death to life

***John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.***

***John 11:25-27 Jesus said to [Martha], "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."***

6. If your name is written there, you will NOT BE CONDEMNED to the Lake of Fire

***Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus***

***Romans 5:9-10 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!***

***1 Thessalonians 1:10 his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.***

7. BUT if your name is NOT in the Lamb's Book of Life... you will be condemned

#### F. Christians Deeds Assessed for Accountability and Reward

***1 Corinthians 3:12-15 If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. <sup>14</sup> If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.***

#### G. Non-Christian Deeds the Basis of Eternal Condemnation

1. When their works are revealed, they are the REASON these lost people will be condemned

***Romans 1:29-31 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; <sup>31</sup> they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless.***

***Galatians 5:19-21 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; <sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions <sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.***

#### V. The Lake of Fire: God's Eternal Judgment for His Enemies (vs. 14-15)

***Revelation 20:14-15 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.***

A. Lake of Fire: The Second Death

B. Created for the Devil and His Angels

C. Eternal Conscious Torment (Revelation 14:10-11)

D. The Resurrection of the Wicked Fits them for Eternity in Hell

***Isaiah 66:24 And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind."***

The WORM DOES NOT DIE = the resurrection body of the damned will never be destroyed

E. The Resurrection of the Righteous Fits them for Eternity in Heaven

***1 Corinthians 15:42-44 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; <sup>43</sup> it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; <sup>44</sup> it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.***

***Matthew 13:43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.***

## VI. The Atonement of Christ: Our Only Hope of Escaping Judgment

A. Our Lawbreaking Requires the Death Penalty

***Romans 6:23 he wages of sin is death***

This text reveals that it is the SECOND DEATH...

B. Christ Fulfilled the Law in his Perfect Life

***John 8:29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.***

***1 Peter 2:22 He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."***

C. Christ Atoned for our Law-breaking by His Substitutionary Death

***1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,***

D. Saved by Grace through Faith in Christ

***Romans 3:23-25 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.***

## VII. Application: Is Your Name Written in the Book of Life?

***Revelation 20:15 If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.***

A. Judgment Day is Coming...



1. You cannot see it, you must believe it by faith
2. You must FLEE the wrath to come
3. The only escape is faith in Christ

B. Christians

1. Do you think about Judgment Day for yourself
  - a. You will have to give God a careful account of everything you've done in the body whether good or bad
  - b. Are you living the kind of life you will be delighted to show Christ when he reveals it on that day?