

I. God's Judgment

2 Corinthians 5:10

For

- 9: life's goal, ambition: we aspire to be well-pleasing to Him (acceptable)
- 10: it is conditional

2 Corinthians 5:10

Must

- Certainty.
 - Ac.17³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent... ³¹ because He has appointed a day...
- We cannot cancel this appointment.
- Amos 5:18-19

2 Corinthians 5:10

All

- Final Judgment includes whole inhabited earth
 - Acts 17³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.
 - Universal turnout: all who have lived on earth; no exemptions

2 Corinthians 5:10

Appear

- Ro.14¹⁰ for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ
- We invite people to study Bible . . .

2 Corinthians 5:10

Before

- We will face Him.
 - Ac.25¹⁰ So Paul said, I stand at Caesar's judgment seat, where I ought to be judged.
 - Some reject, blaspheme, ignore Him.

No one will ignore God at Judgment

Those who hated Him on earth
will then hate themselves

2 Corinthians 5:10

Judgment Seat

- With justice for all
- “But I want mercy!”
 - Heb.2² if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward,
³ how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation...?

2 Corinthians 5:10

Of Christ

- Though He died, He lives.
- Lk.11²⁹ And while the crowds were thickly gathered together, He began to say, This is an evil generation. It seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the prophet. ³⁰ For as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man will be to this generation.

2 Corinthians 5:10

That

- Expresses purpose, aim, or goal

Each

- God will pronounce judgment on each individual
 - Gal.6⁵ For each one shall bear his own load

2 Corinthians 5:10

May receive

- Receive what was previously one's own
- Mt.12³⁶ But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

Pharaoh: drown babies

Haman: hang Mordecai

Advisors: Daniel...lions

Jews: kill Christ, Jn.11

2 Corinthians 5:10

Things done in body

- Lit., “The things through the body”
- Contrast: “My body, my choice!”
- 1 Co.6:12-17

2 Corinthians 5:10

According to what he has done

- Jn.12⁴⁸ He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day
- 2 Th.1⁶ since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, ⁷ and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels

2 Corinthians 5:10

Whether good or bad

- Believers in “faith alone” struggle with verse 10 – *(according to what he has done) = we are judged by our actions*
- 2 Co.11¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works

I. God's Judgment

II. Why Are So
Many Unprepared?

Wishful thinking

- Some ignore judgment warnings – focus instead on God’s mercy
 - “Lv.10 proves we don’t have to obey God’s directions!” [Nadab / Abihu / Aaron]
 - “Aaron’s ‘disobedience’ highlights the longsuffering of God.” (Cf. Ex.32)
 - Lv.9:5, 6, 7, 10, 21 . . . 10:1
- No one can prove Aaron sinned by not eating (19-20).
- Aaron may have sinned if he had eaten, Lv.22:4-6; Nu.19:14

Wishful thinking

- Some ignore judgment warnings – focus instead on God’s mercy
 - “2 Sm.11-12, David’s sins justify adultery” (God spared him)
 - David did not know he had been spared
 - Ps.51, without repentance, lost forever
 - What proves too much, proves nothing
 - Denominations: David’s mechanical music
 - Mormons: David’s polygamy
 - Mafia: David’s murder

Wishful thinking

- Some ignore judgment warnings – focus instead on God’s mercy
 - Mt.19⁸ He said to them, Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, **but** from the beginning it was not so.
 - Ac.17³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, **but now** commands all men everywhere to repent...

Wishful thinking

- Two conclusions:
 1. Even if God condoned sin in the past . . .
He does not now (Ac.17:30).
 2. Past: period of forbearance . . .
Present: privilege of grace . . . (forgiveness)
Future: perpetual judgment . . .

Stinking thinking

- “Billions have died without the gospel; this many cannot be wrong.”
 - Gn.6, worldwide flood
 - 2 Pt.3, worldwide fire...

Stinking thinking

- If majority is our standard, NT is wrong
 - Mt.3:7... many Pharisees / Sadducees
 - Mt.6:7, many words do not guarantee answered prayers
 - Mt.7:13, many will go to destruction (see 7:22)

Majority has never determined
right and wrong with God

I. God's Judgment

II. Many Are Unprepared

III. Judgment Is Not
Cruelty, But Justice

2 Co.5:14-15

- If God was cruel to anyone, it was to Himself.
 - Sacrificed Son to save wretch like me

2 Co.7:9

- Repentance: God's offer of escape

“Repentance has a double aspect; it looks upon things past with a weeping eye, and upon the future with a watchful eye”

2 Co.4:3-4