

Eternal Judgment

We have been discussing the “elementary teachings” of Christ and “going on to maturity”. (Heb. 6:1-3). The reason that most have not gone on to maturity is because they have never been taught the elementary doctrines and without them, we cannot go on to maturity as Christians. Today, I would like to introduce the sixth of these elementary doctrines, “eternal judgment”.

Our world today is spiraling out of control with crime and murders. Our question many times is, “Where is justice?” Many have a passion for justice, to see things done properly and to see crime punished, and those who have hurt or killed others brought to justice. But, how does this mesh with our understanding of the eternal judgment of God?

Though a man may escape human judgment in his life, he will not escape the judgment of God. Many who are involved in “Christian activism” have either not been taught this principle, or, they have forgotten that all will be judged. We are witnessing Christians being involved in the murder of abortion doctors, thinking they are doing the works of God. We cannot lay aside the truth, “thou shalt not kill” in order to bring about our own desire for justice. At issue is whether or not we believe God is sovereign. Do we believe that He will be the judge of all? And, will we rely on His judgment, or take matters into our own hands, by killing people in order to prevent others from being killed?

Eternal judgment has to do with an eternal perspective, that which is outside the rational, temporal and logical way that we see life on earth. In human perspective, we know only yesterday and today, and we make rules based on yesterday, along with today’s potential, in order to guarantee order and some sense of future well being. But, in the eternal perspective, God knows the end from the beginning. Our problem is in not understanding that when God allows a thing to go on, it is not because He is in agreement, or that He is indifferent to what is happening.

For example, today, from a rational perspective, Jesus would not have been allowed to be crucified. Why? He was a man unfairly accused, judged and condemned and executed. There would be many, like Peter, lining up with a sword to defend Him. Jesus’ response, “...shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?” John 18:11. Why didn’t God stop this execution? Why didn’t He call for angelic intervention? Simple, the murder of Jesus had an eternal importance that went beyond the understanding of human intelligence.

We must not get caught up in trying to bring about justice and righteousness through legal or social action, and certainly, we are not to take up the sword. Our responsibility is obedience. No one will escape the judgment of God. He will judge all, and He will judge righteously. Our rest comes in surrendering our “right” to judge to Him.

