

## The Gospel, 1844, and Judgment Lesson 2 3Q 2006

### Judgment Must Begin

Read Memory text and then first paragraph – thoughts about the memory text? How can preconceived ideas impact our view of the text?

What does this passage all by itself lead one to think or emphasize? God is going to judge! But what is the actual emphasis of this verse? That something is going to happen in the day God judges, but we don't know what, so let's back up and read the verses before it, start with verse 13.

Does reading the previous verses have any impact on how we read the memory verse? Does the emphasis change? How so? Is it saying that God sits up there and He determines who is going to be saved and lost? That God has records to judge you by and you better be sure your records are right?

What does the Bible say about records? 1 Cor 13 – “Love keeps no records of wrongs” Is God love? Then does He keep records of wrongs? 2 Corinthians 5:19 God doesn't count men's sins against them, yet the Bible does teach there are records – so how do we harmonize these passages?

Does a doctor keep medical records? For what purpose? To publicly display in order to embarrass and humiliate you? Or does the doctor closely guard your privacy? Then what purpose are the records? If someone brings the allegation of malpractice against the doctor, who are the records there for? They are there to protect the doctor – they reveal the sickness of the patient, the remedy provided and the healing that transpired, or they may reveal the sickness, the remedy provided and the fact the patient was noncompliant and refused the remedy and didn't get well and in fact died. In any case, the records are never there to accuse the patient, but are merely there to reveal the truth and exonerate the doctor when he is accused of malpractice.

So in our memory text, what is this judgment about?

Romans 2:13 “For it is not those who hear about love, truth and freedom who are healthy and right in God's sight, but it is those who internalize into their hearts and minds the principles of love, truth and freedom and have characters transformed to be like Jesus who are diagnosed as righteous. <sup>14</sup> (Indeed, when Gentiles, who have not heard the truth about God's character, methods and principles as revealed in Scripture, but internalize into their characters God's methods of love, truth and

freedom that they have understood from God's revelation in nature, they are in harmony with God and his great law of love and life, even though they have not had the benefit of Scripture, <sup>15</sup> since they reveal that the infection of selfishness has been removed and love has been written in their hearts, their consciences are cleansed and are in harmony with God, and their thoughts are able to discern right from wrong – healthy from unhealthy.) <sup>16</sup> This revelation, of the effect of God's healing plan and who has accepted it and who hasn't, will occur when God compares men's inmost secret self with the character of Jesus, as my healing message declares." TRJ Version

What is God doing? He is merely providing the accurate diagnosis of our condition – have we accepted the remedy and allowed God to heal us or not? Is it God's judgment that causes our condition to be what it is or does He merely confirm what our condition actually is?

## SUNDAY

Read first two paragraphs – thoughts?

What is the good news? What was Jesus' message? What was Jesus' witness? What was Jesus' testimony? What did Jesus say His mission was?

JN 17:1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do... <sup>6</sup> "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word... <sup>26</sup> I have **made you known** to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

What is the Good News? The truth about God, revealed by Jesus which restores trust so that we can know God and be restored back into His likeness.

What about the idea of Jesus as our substitute? Does it mean that He had to die to appease a wrathful and angry God? Read 1 Peter 2:24 – He

himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

What does it mean? What did we need in order to be healed? In order to be restored into our original Godlike state that God created Adam to be? First we needed restored trust – but we needed more, we needed a remedy – what is the remedy? How did Christ achieve it?

What do you think about the idea of paying a penalty? Look up Isaiah

53:6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
 each of us has turned to his own way;  
 and the LORD has laid on him  
 the iniquity of us all.

What does this mean? Does this mean every sin, ever committed by every person past, present and future was individually placed on Christ and He experienced the anguish of all that?

Or does it mean that He was made like us in everyway and took upon Himself, bent, twisted, infected humanity and experienced the deformity of what sin has done to the human race and He, every step of His life, every moment of His earthly existence worked out the remedy, defeated the infection, purged the defects and healed His creation!!!!

Christ came, born of the HS,

COL 2:9 “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in  
 bodily form”

with the circle of love in place in his heart,

But He was also born of a woman yet within a defective, weak,  
 infected and sick humanity –

GAL 4:3,4 “So also, when we were children, we were in slavery  
 under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully  
 come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law”

Romans 7:23 but I see another law at work in the members  
 of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me  
 a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. <sup>24</sup> What a  
 wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

<sup>25</sup> Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I  
 myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature  
 a slave to the law of sin. RO 8:1 Therefore, there is now no  
 condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because  
 through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from  
 the law of sin and death.

Christ literally defeated and eradicated the infection of selfishness and in His humanity restored God's character of love in man – He cured, purified, regenerated, restored, healed His creation!

What about “that through faith in Him we stand perfect in God now because we are covered with perfect righteousness”?

Look up Romans 3:22 “This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”

Romans 3:21 But now God has revealed, a healthy state of being – a character that is right and perfect in everyway, that did not come from the written code, but is exactly what the Scriptures and the 10 Commandments were pointing your minds toward. <sup>22</sup> This perfect state of being comes from God and is created within us by God when we trust him. Our trust in him is established by the evidence given through Jesus Christ of his supreme trustworthiness. There is no difference amongst any ethnic groups, <sup>23</sup> for all humanity is infected with the same disease of distrust and selfishness, and are deformed in character and fall far short of God's glorious ideal for mankind. <sup>24</sup> Yet all, who are willing, are healed freely by God's gracious remedy that has been provided by Jesus Christ.” TRJ Version.

Thoughts?

Third paragraph read – thoughts? The lesson asks a question “If this isn't talking about judgment, what is?”

Is this talking about judgment? Or is this talking about simple reality? Why do the lost end up outside the city? Is it because God wants them there or even because God has decided that's where they need to be? Who decides they need to be outside the city? Who makes the choice for the lost to be lost? Who determines their fate? Does God ever say to anyone I won't let you be saved?

REV 14:6 Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people. <sup>7</sup> He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

REV 14:8 A second angel followed and said, "Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great, which made all the nations drink the maddening wine of her adulteries."

REV 14:9 A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and his image and receives his mark on the forehead or on the hand, <sup>10</sup> he, too, will drink of the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. He will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment rises for ever and ever. There is no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and his image, or for anyone who receives the mark of his name." <sup>12</sup> This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus.

Thoughts about this passage – what does it actually say?

The hour of whose judgment has come? Who is being judged? Is God judging us or are we judging God? And if we make judgments about God does that determine our destiny? If we judge God to be untrustworthy does that determine what happens to us? So this judgment is not about God sitting on a throne and making determinations about us, this judgment is about a time in history when enough evidence about God has been revealed that an entire population can make an accurate and right judgment about Him!

What about the fire passages – what about the idea that God will burn the wicked forever and ever – what do you make of that? What is the key in this passage? Where does this burning take place? “in the presence” of God and the holy angels – does that mean that God and the holy angels spend eternity in the traditional hell of eternal torment? Then what does it mean?

MONDAY

Read first paragraph – what determines the two classes of people? How we have judged God, do we trust Him and therefore open the heart to Him and receive His healing remedy or do we distrust Him and close the heart and thus die from our terminal condition.

Second paragraph – read – what sort of judgment divides the righteous from the wicked? Their very own condition – just like those infected with Ebola and some take the remedy and some don't. They are divided from each other by what? By death, the Ebola kills those who are infected – there is no need for anyone to do anything, their very condition is what separates and determines.

## TUESDAY

Second paragraph read –Who was Jesus judged by? Is the lesson referring to Pilate? It says “Jesus was judged and condemned at the Cross in our stead.” Did Pilate judge and condemn Him in our stead? Who might the lesson be referring to? God??? Did God judge Jesus and condemn Him in our stead?

This inference gets right to the heart of the matter, right to the heart of the distortions about God and the underlying lies of Satan in the GC between God and Satan. Basically, this view says God is the one who condemns, that sin isn't really our enemy, God is, if God wouldn't be so severe, exacting, unforgiving and would just let us be free in our sin we would be fine, but God is always so controlling that He will condemn us if we don't do what He says.

This is exactly Satan's lie from the beginning: Jesus said, “I did not come to condemn the world but to save it.” And “If you have seen me you have seen the Father. The Father and I are one.” And “I will not pray the Father for you, because the Father himself loves you.”

The truth is that sin destroys and results in death, “the wages of sin is death” “sin when it is full grown brings forth death” and God has been holding in check the full destructiveness of sin while simultaneously providing a remedy and working to convince us of His trustworthiness so we would take it.

ISA 53:4 Surely he took up our infirmities  
and carried our sorrows,  
yet we considered him stricken by God,  
smitten by him, and afflicted.

ISA 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

Everyone of those texts fail to support the false allegation that God judged and condemned His Son – they do support that God and the Son together gave of themselves to provide us the remedy we needed. To reveal the truth which restores trust and to purge the infection of selfishness from humanity and restore God's character of Love within humanity.

What about the EGW quote any thoughts?

Iniquity is the infection, the defects of selfishness which infect humanity since Adam sinned – Christ took upon Himself the humanity of fallen humans but had as His Father the HS thus His mind was in perfect harmony with heaven.

He was counted as a transgressor – in other words He was treated as a transgressor, yet He was without sin.

What about the statement that “The guilt of every descendent of Adam was pressing upon His heart.” Does that mean that every individual sin every committed by any sinner in all time was pressing upon His heart?

Or does it mean that Christ was aware of what guilt was doing to His children and He was aware of how guilt was damaging and destroying His children and this tore at His heart? If you had a child dying of painful bone cancer and the child is writhing in pain, could I accurately say that the child’s pain was pressing upon your heart? Does that mean you have taken the cancer and pain upon you? That the cancer has somehow been transferred to you?

So when we read this text that the guilt of every descendent of Adam was pressing upon Christ’s heart does that mean guilt was somehow transferred like a commodity to Christ or that Christ’s heart was being torn in compassion and empathy in His awareness of what guilt was doing to His children?

Bottom section “What difference does it make for you knowing that, in the end, God will judge both with mercy and with justice? Why do you want mercy more than justice? Why will you need it?”

Is there some difference between mercy and justice? What is justice? Doing what is right, what is just. What is the right and just action to take when your child is dying and you could save them? What if the child was dying because they disobeyed you, but you could still save them, what then is the right and just course?

On a scrap of paper I read the story of a girl who was lost in the woods, imprisoned by snow. Days and nights passed, and she lost the power to make any effort, and lay motionless. At last some woodmen passed the place. The snow had melted, and they found her unconscious. They gently raised her, laid her on some boards, and carried her to the warmth of their own hearth. They cared for her tenderly, and had the joy of seeing her restored to consciousness. Then they learned who she was, and let her parents know in regard to her. The parents came for her, and when she was strong they took her home. {BEcho, May 30, 1898 par. 5}

It is a wonderful story of a hardy girl; but this is not why I tell it to you. I tell it because I want you to understand the anger of love. Suppose, if you can, that these men had seen the helpless girl, and had passed by on the other side, leaving her to die. Suppose the parents had heard what had been done to the child they loved. How would they have felt toward those men? Thankful, do you think? Would they have been simply indifferent? Would they not rather have been terribly grieved, wildly indignant? Would not the knowledge that their child might have lived, make more bitter their sorrow at her death? Had they chanced to meet these men, would their words to them have been soft, honied words? Would they not have denounced them with righteous indignation, hot as their tears, intense as their love? {BEcho, May 30, 1898 par. 6}

Here, I thought, was a human life, saved by human sympathy and tenderness; but how must the anger of God burn toward those who see souls in peril, ready to die, and yet say nothing, do nothing, to help them. They give all attention to the ninety and nine that are within the fold, while souls in peril are all around them, and no hand is stretched out to save them. If one goes astray, they pass on indifferent. And that soul has all the responsibilities of an immortal life. To lose heaven is to lose everything, and yet how indifferent, how careless never to give him warning, or show him the way of life. {BEcho, May 30, 1898 par. 7}

The sufferings of every man are the sufferings of God's child, and those who pass by their perishing fellow beings without pity or help, provoke God's grievous anger. His righteous thunders gather. His vivid lightnings flash; it is the wrath of the Lamb. Be faithful to your fellowmen, and you will please God. He loves the world; love it too, and you will be accepted by Him.

What would we think of God if He didn't act to save us? What would the universe think? Who is really being judged?

### WEDNESDAY

Second paragraph – so what kind of judgment is this? Mere diagnosis of our actual condition.

### THURSDAY

Entitled “His Reward is With Him” And the lesson attempts to make the case that because His reward is with Him when He comes that therefore, some judgment must have transpired prior in order for God to determine who gets the reward. They use the analogy of human courts handing out a sentence before an inquiry that leads to judgment, but are human courts, based on human principles and the principles of this world a good analogy for how God works? As soon as we do this we misrepresent God!

What is the reward that we get? Eternal life- and what is eternal life?  
John 17:3 – Knowing God, and who determines whether we know God?

We do, so what is the judgment about? Whether we can trust God or not, so who is being judged? God! What about the wedding feast analogy, what is the imagery about? About two coming into oneness – Christ is the bridegroom and the church is the bride and we are to be united with Him as one, in unity oneness in heart mind and purpose, before He comes and then when He comes He comes to take us to the wedding supper of the Lamb.