

## Judgment of God – Part II

I don't have time to give a review except to mention our first session back in January was testimonial at orientation and an offering of a series of teachings. Then we spent seven sessions looking at the Holiness of God; because apart from the foundational revelation of the Holiness of God, we as New Testament Christians will continue to walk in carnality of self determination, underestimating the magnitude of our sin. Because only looking at the Holiness of God allows you to have any perception of how far divorced we are from that perfect purity of the Holiness of God. That then led us to the equal sign in the equation, remember, which is judgment and out of the outflow of the judgment of God, you're either condemned to Hell for all eternity; or to Heaven, having been justified by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ. So we began last week, after seven sessions on holiness, seven sessions on sin, we began to look at the judgment of God. Now the judgment of God begins to flow out of this simple revelation. That God is love; love is relational; relational is choice. If one choice is God, every other choice is ungod or ungodly. So the root of sin in us is to make a choice other than God.

Next poster. When you say why does God allow evil; why did He create it this way and so on, you can go no deeper than that revelation that we are allowed in the permissive will of God to choose ungod that the relationship may be of love and not be of robotic slavery. God also has to be approached and known through a balanced harmonious view of His three critical essences; essential characteristics. He is the sovereign majestic creator king; He is the passionate lover; and He is the fierce but righteous judge. God loves to create us and He created us to love us. So when we begin to approach the judgment of God, we simply need to review the following sequence. In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth. This is His universe and it runs by His rules and every problem that man has had since Adam and Eve has been to try to set the rules as opposed to coming to God to have the rules revealed. He created us in His image as eternal spirit creatures for relationship. He loved to create us and He created to love us. God is love and love is a passion for oneness. God has an absolute burning passion for oneness with us. That's carried to what we would view as extreme; but God views as normal when He says capture every thought in obedience to Jesus Christ. God is happy that we're in His kingdom as His children; but He's not satisfied so long as there is one thought that is not in oneness with Him. That is not a bad thing; it is a majestic thing; because it reflects the all consuming passion that He has to be absolutely one with us. That's the love of God.

He is relational because He is love; relational is choice—if one choice is God, every other choice is ungod or ungodly. And He asks only one thing—that we choose Him above all other things. That we have no other god besides Him; that we reciprocate love to Him by choosing Him; that we express faith in Him by choosing Him; that we simply agree that He is the only self determined thing in all of existence; and that we reject ungod which turns out to be, when traced to its root, self determination. That is for man to look at options and determine that he can determine what is the best option. Just like Adam did; God said don't eat, you'll die—Satan said eat, you'll be like God. So Adam determined that he could determine which option was best for him. And that is the root of the sin

nature; the pronouncement by man that he is self determined; he can listen to God, explore other options and then self determine what is the best option. And that is self worship, which is, we learned, to judge God; because you cannot function in self determination without judging God in the process. So He gave us choice that it could be of love and He views every choice that we face throughout our human existence as the same choice. There is ultimately only one choice—God or ungod. He views every choice as one more opportunity provided by Him; that is to say a God given opportunity to choose God rather than ungod. And by doing so, we proclaim I believe You, I trust You, I love You, I hold You in awe and reverence which is the fear of the Lord; and I cannot make a decision better than what you have told me is best for me. And as New Testament Christians, when we read phraseology like deny self, it's exactly talking about this; because we're given choice that it be of love. The choice is always either God or ungod, which is God determined or self determined. So as New Testament Christians, when we deny self, what we're doing is (by choice) giving up choice because we've chosen the purpose of choice which is to choose God; to be God determined—not self determined. So when we choose Him rather than any other choice including thinking we can self determine what is a better choice, then we're simply saying I believe You, I trust You, I fear You and I will walk in oneness with You.

Now when we choose Him cheerfully, what we're doing is proclaiming our joyful recognition and adoration for all that God has cheerfully provided to us including His Son. **Because if He's given us His Son, what will he withhold from us?** That, in fact, is to be a living sacrifice. You remember that masochism is the willful seeking of pain because of feeling unworthy of pleasure? But the self crucifixion of the Christian, the denial of self is the willful acceptance of pain out of devotion to a greater pleasure; the glorification of our God; to fulfill our very purpose for having been created. Anything short of that is not to honor Him as God. So as New Testament Christians we honor Him by coming to a Bible study. We honor Him by reading the Bible; we honor Him by helping the needy; but we only honor Him as God when we deny self and choose Him as a lifestyle—not an occasional occurrence. Romans 1:21 – speaks of, even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks. But when we deny self, choose Him as a lifestyle—not an occasional event, then we are becoming living sacrifices for the glory of God which is to fulfill our purpose. By choosing God and by a lifestyle of choosing God rather than ungod, only then do we honor Him as God and only then do we give Him thanks. Because we must ask ourselves, how sincere can thanksgiving be when it's offered to that which we refuse to choose? How sincere can praise be when it's given to the Being whom we refuse to choose?

Choosing God is what we're made for. You see every breath that we breathe is a God given opportunity to direct it back toward our creator God, to reciprocate love with Him, offering praise to Him by choosing Him and choosing Him with every choice. Anything less than that is residual self worship rather than God worship. Anything less than that is to walk by faith in our own determination ability as opposed to walking by faith in God, Who is the only self determined thing in all of existence. Self determination is faith in ourselves; but God determination is rejecting determination by self, faith in self, and choosing to walk by faith in God. So have we done so? I think going back to Adam, we

can see, no. He functioned in self determination, not God determination. And likewise for every lost person. And for us as New Testament Christians, to delight in our salvation, which is appropriate, but then delight in a lifestyle of choosing ungod rather than God while we function in self determination, choosing what level of righteousness we think God should be satisfied with, rather than choosing God with every choice, denying self and following Him, we are in self worship, whatever we call it. And something dies when we continue in residual sin. We don't physically die; we have already sinned, so it is appointed unto men once to die, but what dies when you continue in a lifestyle of choosing ungod, functioning in self determination, is you produce dead works. You produce dead testimony. You produce death to the abundant life.

So how many New Testament Christians are walking in the fullness of the abundant life? If not, it's because they are choosing death rather than life. And God told even the children of Israel, I've set before you life and death; choose life that you may live. So in a way, He's set before us as New Testament Christians, choose life. Choose the abundant life. Choose to abide in Me and abiding in Him is nothing more than denying self, denying self determination and walking in the fullness of yielding to being a God determined creature.

But instead, the human race has rejected Him repeatedly, maintained other gods before Him, not regarded Him as Holy, and He says I am Holy and I will be regarded as Holy by those who come near me. So we can function as New Testament Christians not regarding Him as Holy. The problem is we can't come near Him in the process. So simply put for many of us, even after salvation, we continue to reject being God determined creatures. To do that is to step on His feet, slap His face, and spit in His eye, giving thanks for His cross, while refusing to yield to what that cross purchased for us. And then often in the ultimate display of audacity and pride, we humans look at the judgment of God, apart from Christ, revealed as Hell for eternity and scream, what could any man possibly do to deserve a punishment like that? No loving God could possibly do such a thing. But to ask that question that way is to look through the wrong end of the telescope. We're asking such questions as that from the perspective and frame of reference and viewpoint of fallen man, not from the viewpoint of a Holy God. And to do that is to judge God; but He being self determined, and being the only self determined creature in all of existence, designed the universe to His liking. And remember, truth is what He is and how He views everything else. Truth is not what we determine apart from what He is and how He views everything else. When we pronounce ourselves as self determined, even in what we think are small ways, we're trying to design a God to our liking, rather than acknowledge that God has designed the universe to His liking.

And to do that is to maintain a heart position like Job. And remember, how God spoke to Job. Job was a righteous man; but throughout the book he kept saying if I could just gain an audience before Him, I will argue my case before Him. Well, you know, just what case can a finite create argue before an omniscient God? So God answered him with a question which is the only way an omniscient Being can really answer; because we, with our peanut brains, cannot comprehend all the contents of an omniscient Being. So He

says, will you annul my judgments? Will you condemn me, your creator, that you may be declared righteous in your arguments? So the question is, will we judge God?

So let's rephrase the question of God about Hell. In the hands of God, in the hands of a Holy, perfectly pure righteous and loving God, how horrible must the sin of man be to merit such a punishment as Hell? When you ask the question that way, you're beginning to see, based on how God views reality, not how we think God ought to be based on how we view reality. To begin to see ourselves in the light of the Holiness of God, rather than trying to see God in the light of our fallen natures. So at every step in our lives as human beings, we have despised something of God. We despise the One by Whom we have been made; we despise the one for Whom we have been made; we despise His ways and we have despised His one way to salvation. So the difference between what we were created to do and what we have done, is the foundation for the basis of the judgment of God. And these are not just idle empty theologic attitudes. When we get to the New Testament, why do we have such precious little revelation of the love of God? It's because we have such little revelation of the broad disparity between the Holiness of God at the infinite extreme and then the sin of man at the opposite infinite extreme. And when you have a narrow gap in your understanding that holiness is here and sin here, then you'll have a narrow understanding of what your Jesus did for you on the cross; because you'll maintain that unspoken attitude, well since the difference is small, the price He paid must have been small. But when you get a revelation of the Holiness of God and the revelation how virtually every thought you've had even since salvation has been self determined, not God determined; then you begin to quicken to the awful price that had to be paid and then grace becomes amazing to you. And that's what Ephesians 2 tells us – we were children of wrath, dead in sin... but God...in order to display His grace for the ages to come. So what I'm really talking about is not magnifying the revelation of holiness and sin, but that would make it larger than it really is; but bringing us closer into understanding the Holiness of God and the sin of man by comparison that we come to grips in the New Testament with the amazing price paid and the amazing grace that provided that.

So God may righteously ban any creature from His presence forever. So the wonder, when you begin to look at how God views reality is not that there is a Hell, the wonder is we haven't all been there for a long time. For our self determination is to look at Scriptures like Isaiah 55:8-9 – when God says through the prophet, My ways are higher than your ways. My thoughts are higher than your thoughts and not just a little bit pee-mite higher. As high as the Heavens are above the Earth are my ways and thoughts apart from yours. But when we function in self determination, not capturing thoughts to the obedience of Christ and not denying self, what we're doing is saying no...no God, You got it wrong. My ways are higher than Your ways; my thoughts are higher than Your thoughts. Can you imagine a created being saying to his creator, who has written him a book to reveal Himself to us...no, no You got it wrong, God. My ways are higher than Your ways. So, you see, when we function, remember, in self condemnation as New Testament Christians, what we're doing is saying, no, no God; the value of my sin exceeds the value of the price paid by the blood of Your Son on that cross. That's self determination; that's self worship; that's not humility. That's insisting that my thoughts

are higher than the thoughts of God. The person that walks in fear of anything but God when God says fear not; but we walk in fear of anything but God, what we're saying is no God, You got it wrong. It's appropriate that I fear in this circumstance.

Next poster. So let's look at a few characteristics of the judgment of God. It will be individual. Romans 2:6 – speaking of God, Who will render to every man according to his deeds. So the judgment will be individual; you'll stand there alone; it will be a judgment according to what you have done; it will not be based on theory, but on reality. Matthew 12:36 – tells us it will be all inclusive. I say to you that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for in the day of judgment. The judgment will include everything no matter how small we judge it to be in our self determination. It'll be according to light. Romans 2:12 – For all who have sinned without the law will perish without the law; and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. In other words, the judgment from an omniscient Being will be according to the light that we have. We all see through a glass dimly at least at this point. It'll be confirmed by your conscience. Romans 2:15 – Their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or defending them. In other words, the judgment of God will be confirmed by your own conscience. So there'll be no plea about any mitigating circumstances. There'll be no appeal based on evidence not taken into account. Romans 3:19 says every mouth will be closed. It'll include the secrets of your heart. On the day when according to my Gospel, it says in Romans 2:16, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus. Every secret of your heart that no other man knows will be brought to light and judged. It will be by Jesus, because remember, all things are summed up in Jesus. He is the creator God, we're told in John; He is our Savior we're told throughout the New Testament; and He is our fierce but righteous judge. John 5:22 – For not even the Father judges anyone; but He has given all judgment to the Son; so the judgment will be done by Jesus. That's so we'll be allowed no leeway in appealing to God Himself based on the distinction between the creator and the creature. How could a creator such as You hold me, a creature accountable? Hebrews 4:15 – For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. So we will not be able to say this is not fair; because we will be judged by the one who is the Son of God, but is also the Son of man.

It will be true – John 8:16 – My judgment is true. Recall that truth is what God is and how God views everything else. So the judgment will be based on how God views reality, not based on how man views reality. There will be no defense based on, I disagree with that. There will be no moral relativism given in defense there. It will be just. John 5:30 – My judgment is just. Just means perfectly righteous. The judgment will be made by the Being Who is omniscient and Who is perfectly righteous and Who was tempted in every way such as we are, yet without sin. Is the judgment of God hasty? Why, I think not. It is patient. Even in Genesis 9:9-13 – since the time of Noah, God made a covenant that He would be patient with this fallen world and not flood the world again...true to His word, thousands of years later, He has never flooded the earth again. We're dealing with a patient God. John 12:47 – Jesus says, for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. See, Jesus could have stayed in Heaven, in the glory, of the company of the Father God and judge the world, but He couldn't stay there and save

the world. He's now delayed His judging for over 2000 years since His coming to save; so I don't think His judgment 2000 years later, even if it came today could be called hasty judgment.

But do you see what we tend to do. When we turn away from God, we ignore God; we ignore the Word of God; we ignore the voice of our conscience, the internal witness; we ignore the voice of creation as it screams at us so that every man is without excuse. As the Heavens declare His glory and the Earth testifies of His handiwork. And ultimately we even ignore God's incarnate Son and even after salvation, we steadfastly refuse 99% of the time to capture every thought in obedience to God. And that's from the ones who even know the grace that provided our salvation. But people apart from Christ are damned because they hate God. They hate His truth; they hate His authority; they hate His rules; they hate His Holiness; and what they ultimately hate is they hate that they are not Him. As one famous atheist said, there is no god; but if there were, how could I bear not to be him? But that's what Adam did. It's not unique to that one educated atheist. Adam could not bear not to be his own god, functioning in self determination. Same thing with Satan—he couldn't bear to be number 2 so to speak. He wanted to be his own god, functioning in self determination. Recall that's why Eve even ate the apple to begin with. Oh, you eat this apple in defiance of God, you will be like God, but apart from God by your own methodology as opposed to the methodology of God. And that's still why the human race still eats the same apple. Nothing has changed. That's why unrepentant ones will be judged to Hell, because they continue to position themselves in their declaration of their self determination as the judge of all including judging God.

So they pronounce in their judging that if there is a God, then He is surely pleased with me. How do I know that? Only by determining that I am the best judge of what God must find acceptable. Remember the three great fallacies of the human race. There is no higher standard to which I am accountable. If there is a higher standard, I will achieve it. And if there is a higher standard and I don't achieve it, my shortfall will be excused. That's not to be God determined. All of those three positions are to be self determined. So do you see some of the things that we don't do? We don't rise daily in amazement at the patience of God. Amazement that we have even been given the gift of life and the gift of relating to Him in love. The gift of being created in His image as eternal spirit creatures. That we have the privilege of continuing here being Earthen vessels for Him, living epistles to tell about Him and ambassadors to represent Him. We should awaken everyday in amazement that this sovereign, majestic creator king allows us to be not only children, but to represent Him in His creation. All of His ceaseless patience with us. Of His Word written, and then protected for thousands of years for us. And ultimately of His Son, Who gave up the glory of Heaven, came to Earth in the form of a man by humbling Himself, Who came to save—not to judge, and ultimately to go to that Hell for us so that we don't have to. See, that's the amazing grace of God. He is patient, but what do we do with His patience? Well, what do children do with the patience of the parents? They abuse it. Romans 2:4 – Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience? I think we do take it lightly, and what we take lightly, we will ultimately take advantage of. We humans do take His patience in judging and turn it into the great escape into a license to live in residual sin. So there's one problem that we

don't understand the punishment called Hell, but another problem is that we refuse to understand the crime in the light of the punishment. If God is love, how horrible, what an abomination sin must be for a loving God to have the horror of Hell for eternity. Except you look at the horror of Hell, you can't begin to grasp the abomination that sin represents to God. Because remember Habakkuk 1:13 – this Holy God cannot approve evil; He cannot look on wickedness with favor. But we tend to function as children do. Consequences deferred are viewed as consequences avoided. We do try to annul His judgments and condemn Him that we may be justified when we declare our unchanged selves as acceptable to God as we judge even His judging of us. So is the punishment of Hell appropriate? Romans 1:20 – For since the creation of the world (that's Genesis 1:1) His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. It is true we are accountable for what we know, and God has insured that we all know a lot. Those who are condemned to Hell have consistently ignored God, not honored God as God, not even acknowledged God and despised the offer of God of His Son as the only way to salvation. They have consistently belittled the ones that God sent to them, apostles, prophets, preachers, teachers, and any other witness, despised His Word, despised the testimony of God through what has been made and have continuously judged God. They are without excuse.

Psalms 37:4 – we love to quote this Scripture: Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Beautiful Scripture...He will give you the desires of your heart, but it also works with the opposite polarity. The children of Israel wanted an Earthly king. God wanted to be their King. He gave them the desires of their heart. Problems flowed; so those who insist on being devoid of the presence of God on Earth will be devoid of His presence eternally. Those who turn from communion with God on Earth will have no communion with God eternally. Those who refuse to see the blessing of God on Earth will not see the blessings of God eternally. Those who steadfastly refuse to change their attitude toward God on Earth will not have an opportunity to change that attitude eternally. Those who refuse the love of Christ on Earth will not experience the love Christ eternally. Those who insist on coming before a Holy God, cloaked in their own righteousness will experience the result of that insistence eternally. Galatians 6:7-8 says do not be deceived, God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. He gives you the desires of your heart. See no one is condemned to Hell against his will. They would not have Christ—they will not have Christ. No one goes to Hell without his own agreement. They're given that which they have chosen, they're given the desire of their heart. They desired life without God, functioning as their own god, so they will simply be given life without God for eternity.

That's the judgment of God and it flows out in one of two ways: Hell and Heaven. And next time that we come together we'll begin to look at Hell including the horror of Hell and the beauty of Hell; because as an atheistic unbeliever until almost 11 years ago, I argued that how can you call God loving and then tell me there is a Hell? And then after I became a New Testament Christian, a child of God, I still couldn't grasp the apparent contradiction of that. And then I received a revelation to understand the beautiful view of Hell that flows out of the character of God. And to me it's testimonial to say, it's

probably the single biggest revelation I have had since becoming a Christian and so next week, we'll start to look at Hell in its horror and then follow through looking at Hell in its beauty. Because it will prepare you to give a defense for the hope that is within you when anyone, atheist or Christian, asks you how can a God of love have a Hell?