

Judgment of God – Part VI

Last time we spoke of Jesus standing in the gap interceding for us; the Holy Spirit interceding for us; so in a simple way we projected what these gaps are. Remember we're in the gap. We stand in the gap between the way things are here on Earth and the way things ought to be according to the purposes and the plan and will of God. Jesus stands in the gap between my righteousness and the righteousness of God. My righteousness is as filthy rags before a Holy God; but Jesus imputes to us through His sacrificial death on the cross the righteousness of God Himself in the courtroom of God. The Holy Spirit stands in the gap between what I'm called to do and what I can do. That is to say, by revelation, bearing witness of Jesus and by empowerment by the power of God to empower me to be what He calls me to be and enable me to do what he calls me to do. So God, Himself, in the form of two Persons of the Trinity is standing in the gap in every way from the time that I am saved here on planet Earth.

But continue now with Heaven. Let's look a little bit at our condition there. First, what will not be there? Tears, death, mourning, crying, or pain. Revelation 21:4 – And he shall wipe away every tear from their eyes and there shall no longer be any death. There shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away. There will be no sin there. I John 3:1 – says We know that when He, Jesus, appears, we shall be like Him because we shall see Him just as He is. A spiritual principle that the way to become like God is to see God and the way that we see God is by seeing Jesus as revealed by the Holy Spirit through His Word as the primary mechanism. So when we see this God face to face, we shall be like Him because we shall see Him as He is and we know from the Word of God that Jesus was tempted in every way such as we are, yet without sin. So if we are like Him and He is sinless, then we shall be sinless in Heaven. There will be no sin there. At last, at that point, we will have finalized all relationship to sin. That began with our salvation which freed us from the penalty of sin. It proceeds thereafter from salvation to a physical death in our remaining time on Earth as we are progressively sanctified; that is transformed by the renewing of our minds into Christlikeness while yet here on Earth by being given the power of God to overcome the power of sin in our lives. So whatever residual sin that we have, it's not because of an absence of power, it's because even as saved Christians, we choose to operate in self determination by continuing to enjoy our residual sin more than we choose to access the power of God. Because there is no temptation given among men but that He has provided a way of escape and the way of escape is through the power of God, accessed through the cross of Christ.

But now that relationship to sin is consummated in Heaven where we now become as He is; so we're now freed in Heaven from even the presence of sin. So first, salvation, the penalty, and then our sanctification, that is to say progressive overcoming the power of sin. And then consummated in Heaven where we're freed from even the presence of sin. So, no tears, death, mourning, crying, pain, or sin. Our bodies will not be there at least in the interim between our physical death and what the Bible calls the rapture. Spoken of in I Thessalonians 4:14-17 where it speaks of the dead in Christ shall then rise and we'll meet Him in the air. So in some mysterious way and understand that God is always going to be part mystery, how can an omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent God not remain mysterious, at least in part, to a finite created brain? But in some mysterious way during that interim when we do not yet have our glorified bodies because the resurrection has not yet occurred, we will still be individually recognizable.

Let's look a little more closely at the tears which will not be there. Certainly we can easily understand that'll relate to any tears that occur as a result of our suffering here on Earth. The tears that were flowed related to the consequences of sin, our mourning over the loss of our loved ones and so on. I also

believe, though you know as I tend to approach things, I don't insist that this be doctrinal for any of you; I believe that He will wipe away an even greater flood of tears that's different from our physical suffering.

Next poster. Recall when we spoke of the judgment and went through some of the characteristics of judgment, one of them was Matthew 12:36 – we will give account for every idle word. Also, Romans 2:16 – Jesus will judge the secrets of the heart. Can you imagine standing before a perfectly righteous omniscient Being and being judged for every idle word and every secret of the heart? Try to imagine the tears that will flow from you when the fullness of your sin is brought into consciousness for the first time; when the fullness of the difference between a Holy God and what you are is brought into your consciousness for the first time; when the difference between what you were called to be and to do is compared with what you actually did and became is revealed to you and brought into your consciousness for the first time. Can you imagine the flood of tears that will flow? Yet it says He will wipe away every tear. Well, what will happen to those tears? Well, we have a redeeming God; that's why He sent us a Savior to begin with. Romans 8:28 – we all love to quote. He makes all things work together for good. So He's going to make that flood of tears work together for good and here's the pathway. You know it because you've heard it before. Psalms 36:9 – says what comes to light becomes light. We have come to the light when we're at the judgment seat of Christ. For the first time, we'll begin to see the fullness of the amazing grace of God as it truly is rather than as we previously thought it to be.

Susan is going to take a Scripture that will show us those things that will lead to the greatest revelation of the grace of God that we will ever receive. She'll read for us Ephesians 2:1-9; this Scripture spoke to me when I first got saved. Midway through the Scripture, you'll hear that conjunction—but. But God. So listen to the first few verses as to what we were...but God; and then listen to what this God did – And you were dead in your trespasses and sin in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world; according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience, among them we too all formerly lived in the lust of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind and were by nature, children of wrath even as the rest; but God being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the Heavenly places in Christ Jesus in order that in the ages to come, He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God. Not as the result of works that no one should boast.

So when you get the revelation of every secret sin; and you get the revelation of every idle word, you will get the full revelation of the love, the grace, the mercy, the forgiveness of God. For the first time, you will fully love God; because understand our love of God can never exceed our knowledge of His love for us. We're taught that we love because He first loved us. We're taught that we know love by this: that He laid down His life for us. So our revelation of love from God is the limiting factor in our ability to love God and others. Then we'll begin to more fully understand Luke 7:47 – He who is forgiven little, loves little. Remember, if you think you are forgiven little, you will know little of the grace of God and thus, little of the love of God and thus, you will love little. But Christ will reveal to you every sin, every departure from the will, the purposes, the plan and the character of God and demonstrate to you that He did not excuse any of those; but that He forgave you and could only forgive that which was paid for and He paid the price. That's how your tears, as He wipes them away, will work together for good because they'll be turned into joy and praise of this Holy God Who loved you that

much. Because you'll then see Him as so much more beautiful, so much more marvelous than you previously thought Him to be while you saw through a glass dimly here on Earth. That's when you'll burst into song and join the Heavenly chorus...Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God. Because they aren't singing Holy, Holy, Holy because they practiced as a choir; they're singing Holy, Holy, Holy because they're seeing this Holy God as He is rather than previously anyone thought Him to be. Because it's only then that you will fully see what He fully did in spite of what you fully were in comparison to Him. That's when you'll see that His grace is holy. His grace is other than. It is indescribable, incomprehensible, and that's when you'll get your finest and fullest revelation of it and you will spontaneously burst into that song: Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty. Because that grace is amazing and it is manifested there for the ages to come. See these are things into which angels long to look because Christ could have stayed in Heaven and judged the world, but He couldn't have stayed in Heaven and saved the world. So the angels in Heaven with Him could not fully understand His grace except they see what He did in the face of what He is and what you were. So what will most assuredly be in Heaven? Joy will. Remember this God is other than. He is so other than that He is indescribable, incomprehensible. Words cannot fully describe the other than misery of Hell; likewise the pleasures of Heaven are other than and words cannot fully describe it. Now we use the word joy to describe a feeling of intense pleasure, intense fulfillment. I call it that euphoric condition of the heart that is overflowing with the knowledge of the love of God as expressed by His grace. That is we've just seen when we come to that judgment seat after death; we will be filled to overflowing with the knowledge of the grace of God.

Then that joy from that point on will be increased with every lost sinner that you see come to Jesus after we go to Heaven. And we will then have our voice added to that chorus in Heaven that is rejoicing, singing with the pleasure at every lost sheep that is found. But the greatest joy will be to see Jesus as He fully is in the Spirit rather than in the limited way that you saw Him while here on Earth. To see that omnipotent God of all creation fully revealed in His glory including specifically the fullness of the amazing grace of God flowing out of His love. Because you see that God, remember, basically said by sending His Son, that I would rather pay the price for you than to hold your sins against you. That I would rather go through Hell for you than to spend eternity without you. It's an expression of how love is a passion for oneness in the heart of God. So He wouldn't allow anything to stand between you and oneness with Him including specifically your sin.

Well, can we do anything to add to that joy? Well, I think we can beginning right now. Matthew 6:20 – but lay up treasures for yourself in Heaven. Now as best I can interpret Scripture, there is one Heaven; but there are greater and lesser rewards in Heaven. It has nothing to do with salvation for salvation is all or none. Either/or. We either go to Heaven or we go to Hell. But the varying rewards in Heaven have to do with how you walked it out here on Earth. With how you applied the principles of the Kingdom of Heaven while here on Earth after your salvation. That's to be contrasted with the plight of the unsaved. They're doing something entirely different. Paul tells us in Romans 2:5 – that they are storing up wrath for the day of wrath. So here on Earth the saved are busy storing up treasures in Heaven; but the unsaved are busy storing up wrath in Hell.

Now will these varying rewards in Heaven stir up jealousy? No. Because we're told that there is no unhappiness basically there. So think again in terms as we did with Hell; about the cups of varying sizes. Each cup in Heaven is fully euphoric, filled to the brim to overflowing with joy, filled to the limits of its ability to hold it and filled to the limits with its ability to understand it. It is literally overflowing with the knowledge of the love of God. That love is poured out of that smaller cup freely to all other cups; those larger and those smaller. There is no envy by the smaller cup of the larger cup; and

there is no pride of the smaller cup in comparison with the yet smaller cup. Each cup including the larger one is fully euphoric, filled to overflowing with joy and unconditional love and pours out that love unconditionally on all other cups, any larger and any smaller. There is no jealousy toward the cups which are larger and there is no pride related to any cups which are smaller. All cups are perfectly filled and perfectly fulfilled. No jealousy and no pride. Each cup loves to see the Christlikeness of all the other cups. All the cups, whatever their size, are full of the peace that surpasses understanding. Because each cup, whatever its size, is overflowing with all the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, goodness, kindness, gentleness, patience, self control. Why? Because we shall be like Him and that's how He is. Yet each cup remains fully humbled by one thing; because that cup is living in the presence of the Holy God Who through His grace is seen to be responsible for the fact that each cup is in Heaven and filled with the fruit and seeing Him face to face. We'll be too busy worshipping that God Who through His grace brought us there to worry about envy, to worry about pride, to worry about jealousy, or to worry about coveting. And like there, the way to be free of those things here on Earth is to see Him as He is rather than focusing on what cup seems smaller or what cup seems larger. We'll be too busy doing, singing Holy, Holy, Holy in Heaven to be worrying about don't covet, don't be jealous, don't be prideful and so on.

Next poster. Let's take a little further look to amplify this thing about joy. I used the words happiness and joy to make this contrast. Each has a basis; each has a relationship to circumstance, each has a relationship to time. The basis of happiness is the cocoon of carnality. That's where we interpret every single event of our circumstances on planet Earth related to cost, comfort, convenience, and control all C's to make it easy to remember. So what's the relationship of happiness to circumstance? Well, it's circumstance sensitive; because as the circumstance which brought me happiness is taken away, I am now unhappy. What about time? Well it's limited because circumstances are always limited. So over time as circumstances change, I go from happiness to unhappiness because happiness is time dependent and circumstance sensitive. Well what about joy? Well the basis of joy as it's spoken of in Scripture, is not the cocoon of carnality, it is not this physical world, it is communion with God. Well, what about the relationship of circumstance? Well the joy of the Lord is resistant to circumstances. That's why you can be joyful as a Christian in the midst of what the world would regard as adverse circumstances. That's how Paul and Silas could sing hymns and praises in prison, though they were in stocks, you see. Because their communion with their God had no relationship to circumstances. It was resistant to circumstances.

Well, how about time? Well since it's resistant to circumstance, therefore, joy of the Lord is sustained over time. Because it's independent of circumstance; since circumstances go up and down; but that has no relationship to your joy, so your joy is sustained. Well, what about the fullness of joy? Because Christ came that we might have fullness of joy. Well, what's the basis of that? It is communion, but it's communion carried to its ultimate which is oneness with God. Remember, that's the love of God; He has a passion that we become one with Him. That not one single thought, one single action be outside or contrary to His will, His purposes, and His character including His love. That's culminated in Heaven, but we progress toward that while yet here on Earth. Well, what's the relationship of the fullness of joy based on oneness with God? Circumstances? It's independent. Now we'll reach that in Heaven; because no circumstance will have any impact upon the joy of the Lord that we experience in fullness of communion with Him unto oneness in Heaven. Therefore over time, it is eternal because anything that is circumstance independent will be eternal.

Well to progress on. While we as believers are on Earth, we can think in terms of three levels of joy. It begins here where it's good as believers; when we have the fruit of the spirit called joy produced in us.

And it gets better; dramatically better, when we die. As our spirits go to Heaven and the amazing grace of God is revealed to us as I just finished describing to you. And the best. We likely will have even more joy when another dimension is added. After the rapture when our glorified bodies rejoin our spirits, in Heaven, there is another dimension with which to experience joy that previously we didn't have. So it's good now, it'll be better in Heaven and likely it's best when our glorified bodies join us and add another dimension to the pleasure.

Contrast that with the unbeliever. It's bad. It begins as misery here on Earth; because he never knows the joy of communion with his God. He never knows his eternal destiny. He never knows why he was created. He never knows his purpose for being here. His inner man is never fulfilled. This is the guy that climbs every mountain on Earth and gets there and says, is this all there is? His emotional state as an unbeliever is at best one of happiness; but remember happiness is circumstance dependent and time limited. Rather than having joy, he takes occasional happiness and calls it joy because he has no understanding of the joy of the Lord. But it's worse when he dies; dramatically worse. Because when he dies, his spirit goes to the judgment seat, then to Hell with his conscience fully activated reminding him of every moment that he preferred self determination over God determination and rejected his creator including rejecting the pathway of salvation provided by his creator. But it will be worse to the point of being called worst, when he adds the extra dimension of the resurrection of his body which will then join him in the misery of Hell and add yet another dimension to the pain. The one in Hell is joyless. And not even one shred of happiness; because happiness remember is circumstance dependent and his circumstances are totally miserable and will be so for eternity.

So will our joy in Heaven be diminished because of viewing those in Hell? No. Because we will see fully. We will see based on truth which is how God sees reality. We'll not see through a glass dimly. We'll rejoice in seeing God's righteousness upheld. We'll rejoice in seeing true justice done. We'll see that those in Hell deserve to be there for they constantly rejected their creator God and rejected His Savior Son. We'll see that they are indeed without excuse. We'll see that those in Heaven should also be there for they accepted by faith the gift of Christ's righteousness which is the provision of a Holy God to provide salvation to the human race. We'll see that those in Heaven did not insist on standing before a Holy God defending their own self righteousness. We'll see that those honored God, not just honored Him, but honored Him as God by agreeing that if they were to be saved, that God Himself had to do it because they couldn't. Here on Earth, we're to love all; we're to witness to all; we're to pray for all, because final judgment has not come. But there in Heaven we will love no damned; we will witness to no damned; we will pray for no damned because final judgment has been passed. It is an historical event brought about by a loving God, a perfectly righteous God Whose judgments are just and whose judgments are true. The One Who is the judge gives judgments which are just and true. So how will you be able to look at the outflow of that judgment by that God and say I will be unhappy as a result of it?

So here it's wrong to rejoice over someone's calamity; but there it will be wrong not to rejoice over someone's calamity. Because we will be rejoicing over the glory of God, rejoicing over the perfect preservation of the righteousness of a Holy God and anything less than joy from us would be to continue judging God as somehow being wrong by sending people to Hell. That would be to continue self worship which is the root of all sin to begin with. So is all of this complicated? No. II Corinthians 11:3 – Do not be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

Next poster. So let's review the simplicity of God's math. Remember, this is how we started this journey. We looked at the Holiness of God, the absolute other thanness of God when God says through

the prophet Isaiah, to whom would you compare me? We then looked at the sin of man; which is the difference between the character and behavior of God and the character and behavior of ourselves in comparison with that God. That's summarized, remember, by coming to the root of sin which is for man to declare himself as self determined and position himself as the judge of God. We then came to the judgment of God which pronounces us as either justified through faith in Christ or condemned. Remember not condemned because of sin, condemned because of rejecting the offering that God has given to pay the price for that sin. We then looked at Hell which is the fate of those who are condemned. We looked at its reality; we looked at its horror. We then looked at the beauty of Hell; the beauty being the clearer revelation of the Holiness of God Himself in all three of His major essences, His essential characteristics.

Now today, we looked at Heaven, the destination of those who are justified, declared righteous. That place where we will live eternally in oneness with our God, in fullness of joy, fullness of communion with the One Who is our creator, the One Who is our Savior, the One Who is our Lord of Lords and King of Kings, and the One Who is our destiny. So as you look at this, you'll see there is one factor in God's math that we haven't yet explored. That's the cross of Christ. But that's not something we're ever to approach trivially. We're to approach it with fear and trembling; because if you do not have the fear of the Lord, the awe and reverence of the Holy God, you will not be in awe and reverence of the cross of Christ. And then you will shrink it to a miniature cross as opposed to seeing it for what it is.

Last poster. You see to approach the cross, you need to work on being sober minded. And I give these dimensions (at least these) as to what a sober mind is. It's one who's fully awake, not one who's half asleep. Could you not stay awake one hour? Do you not think that to approach the cross of Christ, you've got to shake yourself and be awake to the revelation to come? You've got to be clear minded; because you can be fully awake and yet multitasking on twenty different things and thus, lose the fullness of the revelation that awaits you if you were focused on the one thing, the cross of Christ. You've got to be devoted to truth; because remember, truth is what God is and how God views everything else. Truth isn't what you think God ought to be. So you have got to have a passion to be one with truth as defined by being how God views reality, not how you previously viewed reality. And you've got to have a seriousness of mind. God has no objection to humor; but I don't think the foot of the cross of Christ is the place where laughter is a dominant theme. If you want to come into the fullness of revelation of it, you need a seriousness of mind that matches the gravity or seriousness of the subject matter. So, for homework, heart work, Psalms 46:10 (in the King James Version) – Be still and know that I am God. So be still and know that in the beginning God...be still and know that that sets Him so other than apart from anything else in all of existence that the only proper response from any created being is the fear of the Lord; the awe and reverence of that Holy God. And only when you operate in awe and reverence of that Holy God, will you define truth as what He is and how He views everything else. And only then will you see that the fear of the Lord, therefore leading to that definition of truth is why the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, the beginning of understanding, and the beginning of wisdom; and the beginning of understanding of your own sin by comparison with that Holy God. Only then will you understand that you're judging Him every moment of your life and only then will you understand that sets the stage for His judgment of us, including the reality of Hell and the reality of Heaven. So if you are still and know those things, if I'm cleared to speak again, we'll begin to approach the cross of Christ but what I'm setting the stage for, is that if we approach it, that we never approach it casually. Because the Bible says do not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain. And we tend to associate that with profanity and that is true, but may it never be that we would take His Name in vain by being called Christians and then take His Name in vain by casually approaching the cross of Jesus Christ. Because you see Jesus is the provision; Jesus is the source; but the cross is the

means of everything beneficial that God has in store for us. So every spiritual blessing is accessed through the cross of Christ, you see. So can you see that we need to be still and know these things before we would come to the foot of the cross in casualness and presumption?

My time is up and I thank you for listening.