

John 5:25-30

Sec 1. “God hath appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world, in righteousness, by Jesus Christ, to whom all power & judgment is given of the Father. In which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, & deeds; & to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.”

- A. It is not vain speculation to ask what will the judgment be like. There are enough Scriptures passages on this matter for the Westminster Assembly to write a brief chapter on this glorious matter.
- B. Sec 1 begins by telling us who will be the judge of the living & the dead: “God hath appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world, in righteousness, by Jesus Christ, to whom all power & judgment is given of the Father.” This truth is clearly laid out by Scripture:
1. Jn 5:26-27 plainly teaches this truth: “**For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; ²⁷ & He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man.**”
 2. Mat 25:31-33 “**But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, & all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. ³²All the nations will be gathered before Him; & He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; ³³& He will put the sheep on His right, & the goats on the left.**”

Sec 1 goes on to give more details about the judgment of Christ: “...In which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ,...”

- A. A “tribunal” is another word for a court of justice. It can also refer to a judgment seat. As we we read in Mat 25:31, it will be a “**glorious throne**” from which Christ will act as judge.
- B. Regarding the judgment of wicked “apostate angels,” Paul says that God’s elect will be involved. In 1 Cor 6:3, he wrote: “**Do you not know that we will judge angels?**”
1. There is not much detail in Scripture that tells us how this will happen.
 2. There is an order to the judgment. As we learned from 1 Thes 4 last week:
 - a. The dead in Christ will rise first.
 - b. Next will be those Christians who are still alive when Christ appears with His host of angels.
 3. The “apostate angels” will be judged after the events in 1 Thes 4 come to pass.

Sec 1 says “all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, & deeds; & to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.”

A. What is this talk about being judged by an “all persons” who will “give an account of their thoughts, words, & deeds?”

1. Some think they will be acquitted only on the basis of whether or not they verbally acknowledged or confessed Jesus as Lord & Savior.
 - a. **Ja 2:19: “You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, & shudder.”**
 - b. In **Mk 1**, a demon-possessed man in synagogue at Capernaum even acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, saying, “**Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!**”
2. Saving Faith involves knowledge, assent, & trust. The demons only have knowledge.

B. According to **Eph 2:8-9**, we are saved by faith alone yet the faith that saves is never alone: “**For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.**”

C. Saving faith bears fruit as in the case of **Mat 25:34-46**. This passage also teaches that a life void of fruit of Christian love means an empty profession. → Turn there.