

Second London Baptist Confession Chapter 32: The Last Judgment

I. A General Overview of the Last Judgment (Par. 1)

-Author: "God...will judge." (Acts 17:31)

-Occasion: "God has appointed a day in which He will judge." (John 12:48; Acts 17:31)

-Object: "God will judge the world." "In that day, the apostate angels will be judged. So also, all people who have lived on the earth will appear before the judgment seat of Christ." (Acts 17:31; Jude 6)

-Manner: "God will judge the world in righteousness." (Acts 17:31)

-Mediator: "God will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ, to whom all power and judgment is given by the Father." "All people who have lived on the earth will appear before the judgment seat of Christ." (Acts 17:31)

-Activities: "All people who have lived on the earth will appear before the judgment seat of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds and to receive a reckoning according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil." (Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10)

II. The Goal of the Last Judgment (Par. 2)

-Its Identity: Par. 2a: "God's purpose for appointing this day is to manifest the glory of His mercy in the eternal salvation of the elect, and of His justice in the eternal damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient." (Prov. 16:4; Rom. 11:36; Eph. 1:6)

-Its Realization: Par. 2b: "For at that time the righteous will go into everlasting life and receive fullness of joy and glory with everlasting rewards in the presence of the Lord. But the wicked, who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ, will be thrown into everlasting torments and punished with everlasting destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power." (Matt. 25:23, 30, 46; Rom. 2:5-16; 2 Thess. 1:6-9)

-How should Christians think about the last judgment? Matt. 25:21; John 5:24, 29; Rom. 2:6, 10; 1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Thess. 1:6, 7; 2 Tim. 4:8

III. The Present Practical Impact of the Last Judgment (Par. 3)

-Concerning What Is Known and Certain About the Last Judgment: Par. 3a: "Christ desires that we be firmly convinced that a day of judgment will come, both to deter everyone from sin and to comfort the godly more fully in their adversity."

-2) Concerning What Is Unknown and Uncertain about the Last Judgment: Par. 3b: "For this reason, He has determined to keep the day secret, to encourage people to shake off any fleshly security and always to be watchful, because they do not know the hour when the Lord will come and so that they may always be prepared to say, 'Come Lord Jesus; come quickly. Amen.'" (1 Thess. 1:8-10; Heb. 9:28)

The truth of the biblical doctrine of endless punishment can be demonstrated from the positive assertions of Scripture (Matt. 3:12; 18:8; 25:41, 46; Mark 9:43, 48; Luke 3:17; 2 Thess. 1:9; Heb. 6:1, 2; Jude 6; Rev. 14:10, 11); and from miscellaneous expressions of Scripture (Dan. 12:2; Matt. 13:41, 42; 24:51; 25:30; 26:24; Mark 3:29; 14:21; John 5:29).

This exposes two popular heresies: