

Eternity

Judgment Day

Pastor Jimmy Evans

Sunday, October 25, 2026

Eternity: Judgment Day

Hebrews 9:27–28 NKJV

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Hebrews 6:1–2 NKJV

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Matthew 12:36–37 NKJV

But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

2 Timothy 4:6–8 NKJV

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

The Five Crowns of Rewards

1. The Crown of Righteousness

2. The Crown of Glory

1 Peter 5:2–4 NKJV

Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

3. The Imperishable Crown**1 Corinthians 9:24–27 NKJV**

Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

4. The Crown of Rejoicing**1 Thessalonians 2:19–20 NKJV**

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy.

Philippians 4:1 NKJV

Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

5. The Crown of Life**James 1:12 NKJV**

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Revelation 2:10 NKJV

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

The Two Eternal Judgments of God

1. The Judgment Seat of Christ

Romans 14:8–12 NKJV

For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written:

*"As I live, says the LORD,
Every knee shall bow to Me,
And every tongue shall confess to God."*

So then each of us shall give account of himself to God."

2 Corinthians 5:9–11 NKJV

Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

1 Corinthians 3:11–15 NKJV

For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Revelation 22:12–15 NKJV

And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, the First and the Last. Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

2. The Great White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:11–15 NKJV

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Areas of Personal Accountability we will Stand in Judgment For

1. The Judgment of Relationship

Matthew 25:11–13 NKJV

Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, “Lord, Lord, open to us!” But he answered and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.” Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.

2. The Judgment of Stewardship

John 15:8 NKJV

By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Matthew 25:20–21 NKJV

So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, “Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.” His lord said to him, “Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”

Matthew 25:24–30 NKJV

Then he who had received the one talent came and said, “Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is yours*.”

But his lord answered and said to him, “You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents. “For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Small Group Guide: Judgment Day

Opening Question

When you were growing up, what did you understand about the concept of judgment — whether from faith, family, or culture? How has that picture shifted over time?

Prepared for Judgment

The Bible is clear from beginning to end that every person will one day stand before God. Judgment isn't a secondary doctrine or a fringe idea — it's listed in Hebrews 6 alongside repentance, faith, and resurrection as one of the foundational teachings of the Christian life. It isn't something to fear into paralysis, but it is something to take seriously.

Scripture describes two distinct judgments. The Judgment Seat of Christ is for believers — not a judgment of condemnation, but one of examination and reward. The word used in the original language, "bema," referred to the platform where athletes received prizes after a competition. No one is sentenced to hell from this judgment. But what we built our lives on will be tested, and what remains will determine our experience of eternity with God. The Great White Throne Judgment is a different scene entirely — a final accounting for all who did not know God, in which the Book of Life is opened and eternity is set.

For believers, the notes point to two specific areas where we will give account. The first is relationship. In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, the foolish ones looked identical to the wise from the outside. The difference was oil — a picture of time invested with God. Jesus' words to the ones left out are among the most sobering in Scripture: "I do not know you." Religion, church attendance, and familiarity with Christian culture are not the same as a real relationship with Jesus. That relationship takes time, and we have this life to build it.

The second area is stewardship. The Parable of the Talents shows that God entrusts each person with something — gifts, resources, influence, opportunity. The servant who buried his talent didn't use it for himself; he simply did nothing. That, too, is judged. We are not saved by what we produce, but we will be accountable for what we did with what God gave us.

Taken together, these two parables ask two practical questions: Do you know Jesus personally, and are you investing your life in things that will outlast it? Both questions are worth sitting with before that day comes.

For Discussion

1. What's the difference between knowing about Jesus and actually knowing Him? What does a real relationship with Him look like in daily life?
2. The Parable of the Ten Virgins is about time — specifically, time invested in relationship with God. How would you honestly assess how you're using your time in that area?
3. The notes describe the Judgment Seat of Christ as a judgment of rewards, not punishment — like a bema platform where athletes were honored. How does that reframe the way you think about living for God now?
4. What do you think God has entrusted specifically to you — gifts, resources, opportunities? Are you using them, or are they sitting buried?
5. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5 that "knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men." How does a clear-eyed view of eternity change the way we relate to the people around us?

Closing Prayer

Ask God to give your group an eternal perspective — not one driven by fear, but by love for Him and a desire to live with purpose. Pray that each person would have the clarity to invest their time and gifts in things that will last, and that their relationship with Jesus would be genuine and growing.