



Today's Sermons
 Morning: A Study of Miracles
 Evening: TBA

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FOR THE RECORD

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| Sunday Bible Study | 35 |
| Sunday AM Worship | 48 |
| Sunday PM Worship | 28 |
| Wed. Bible Study | 24 |
| Offering | \$1954 |



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Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship:...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm & Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

WHEN PAUL PREACHED IN ATHENS, WHAT DID HE TEACH ABOUT THE DAY OF JUDGMENT?
 Roger D. Campbell

The apostle Paul's open discussions with people in the ancient city of Athens led to an invitation for him to preach at the famous historical sight known as Areopagus or Mars Hill. Paul proclaimed to his listeners on that occasion the "God that made the world and all things therein" (Acts 17:24). Paul developed his theme to the point of telling his listeners that God commands all men everywhere to repent (17:30). Paul's next words were these: "Because he hath appointed a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (17:31). Let us take a closer look at what Paul taught on that occasion about the day of judgment.

How many judgment days will there be? Just one. Sometimes it is alleged that one group of people will be judged at one point in time, then later there will come a second judgment for others. Such a notion is pure fantasy, having no scriptural foundation. Again, look at the wording of Acts 17:31. By the Spirit of God, Paul declared that "a day" has been appointed for judgment.

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Indeed, the Bible calls it “*the day of judgment*” (2 Peter 3:7). It will be a singular day. It will be a one-and-done affair with no postponements, no retakes, and no chance to say, “Catch me the next time around.” *There will be no next time!*

When will judgment take place? Paul declared that “he hath appointed a day.” Who is the “he” that appointed the day? God (17:30). So, God is in control of the timing of judgment. He, and He alone, will decide when it will take place. And what has He told us specifically about when judgment will occur? Jesus said, “*Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh*” (Matthew 25:13). Why did the apostles to whom Jesus was speaking at the time not know when He will come again? Because it had not been revealed then, nor has it been revealed elsewhere in the Bible. Rest assured that the day of judgment will come on the God-appointed day. It is a folly to waste a lot of time speculating when Jesus will come again in judgment. Why? Because no human knows when it will happen.

Who will do the judging? The same One that has appointed the day for judging. That would be God. Sometimes human judges and human juries do not hand down the proper verdict. In some instances they make mistakes in the decisions that they make because they do not have complete information, because they have a biased mindset, or because they are influenced or pressured by others. God possesses no such imperfections or shortcomings. “*The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works*” (Psalm 145:17). In contrast to mere mortals, God possesses total information about those whom He will judge, He has no built-in prejudices, and He certainly cannot be swayed to give an inappropriate verdict. That sounds like it is a good thing that God will do the judging, huh?

Through Whom will God do the judging? What did Paul say? “. . . *he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained . . .*” Which man? The One Whom He hath ordained. Whom would that be? Answer: the One about Whom it can be said, “. . . *he hath raised him from the dead.*” Is there any doubt about Whom that might be? Of course not. It is Jesus, right? The Father will carry out judgment via Jesus. The Father *created* the world through Jesus (Hebrews 1:1,2), He *saves* the world through Jesus (1 John 4:14), and He will one day *judge* the world through the Christ. Remember, Jesus said, “*For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son*” (John 5:22).

Who will be judged? “. . . *he will judge the world . . .*” In this case “the world” is not the material universe (as in 1 Timothy 6:7), nor is it the evil that takes place on earth

(as in 1 John 2:15,16). Rather, to say that the Lord will judge “the world” means that He will judge *the inhabitants* of the world, just like He “so loved the world” means He loved the people that live in the world. Which people will be judged by the Master? “All” that have ever lived (2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 16:27).

How will people be judged? Again, the Bible says, “. . . *he will judge the world in righteousness . . .*” First, God will carry out a righteous judgment, meaning that He will do it fairly and properly – He will “get it right.” Second, He will judge all men according to His standard of righteousness, which is His word. “*But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth . . .*” (Romans 2:2).

What good does it do me to know all that the Bible reveals about judgment, including the message that we have noted in Acts 17:31, if I do not take the proper course of action, which is to prepare properly before the Lord comes in judgment? Let us lay aside this very day any foolish notion or sin that keeps us from being reconciled to our Maker.

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"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity" (I Timothy 4:1-7)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- July 30 – Song Service
- Aug 6 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Aug 6-11 – 8th Annual Old-Fashioned Tent Meeting with Mark Bass
- Aug 13 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell