

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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This Is The Judgment. . .

(Jerry Fite)

When we think of the judgment, our minds usually go to the scene where we stand before the judgment seat of Christ and all our deeds are judged by the Son of God (2 Corinthians 5:10). Or, we may envision standing before the great white throne when all the books will be opened and our recorded deeds judged. What a day it will be to see that our name is in the Book of Life! (Revelation 20:11-15). Do not the feelings of trepidation and fear rise in our heart as we anticipate standing before God?

John offers us another look at the Judgment. It is not a scene in the future, but judgment offered by God here and now. John writes, “*And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works are evil*” (John 3:19). God’s present judgment of man surrounds the fact that *light has come into the world* and man has responded improperly to the light. The Knower of all hearts condemns man’s heart for *loving the darkness instead of the light*, and boldly reveals men’s motive: “*for their works are evil.*”

The light that has come

into the world is Jesus, the Son of God. “*In Him was life; and the life was the light of men*” (John 1:4). This life manifested by Jesus is for all, because he “*lighteth every man, coming into the world*” (John 1:9). The problem is as Jesus shined in the world of darkness, “*darkness apprehended it not*” (John 1:5). In the context of John 1, this lack of “*apprehending*” probably means Jesus was not favorably “*known*” by the world or “*received*” by his own Jewish brethren (John 1:10, 11).

This proclamation of God’s judgment reveals that what we love is often determined by what we are doing. If our deeds are wrong and in tune with the disobedient world, we probably do not love Jesus’ sanctified way, but rather love the darkness. People of darkness, if not commending your deeds, do not make you feel too bad for continuing in them. Continue as you are, the light of Christ is too restrictive.

Jesus reminds us that there is not only the love of darkness, because our works are evil, there is also the hatred for light. Don’t bring me too close to the light which manifests my deeds as being evil. Have you ever noticed in

your discussions with people of the world, when such topics of abortion, homosexuality, and divorce and remarriage are discussed, how adamant people can be against you for just reading what he Word says? They see what it says, and hate it because its light “*reproves their works*”. They do not want to change, so they hate the light.

In the future judgment, our works will be judged by the words of Christ (John 12:48). Is it not wise to constantly weigh our works with the light of Christ’s Word? Jesus says, “*he that doeth the truth cometh to the light, that his works may be made manifest, that they have been wrought in God*” (John 3:21). Think about it. Our deeds are going to be judged as good or evil. You do not have to live your life wondering how your deeds will be considered by the Lord in the future, because you can determine now whether or not your works have been “*wrought in God*”.

This is the judgment. Evil hates the light and does not come to the light to be reproved. Come to the light; have your works examined by God’s light; adhere to truth; and prepare for the future judgment now!