

I. THE JUDGE WHO CANNOT BE BOUGHT

- A. In many parts of the world, justice depends on who has the most money, the best lawyer, or the most influence. Wealthy people often receive lighter sentences while the poor suffer. **God's courtroom is entirely different.** The richest billionaire, and the poorest orphan stand on exactly the same ground before Him.
- B. God is not impressed by status, titles, education, popularity, or religious performance. This is why the bible reveals God as a "Righteous Judge".
 - 1. ***"For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness He shall judge the world, And the peoples with equity." (fairness and impartiality)-Ps 98:9***
 - 2. ***"For there is no partiality with God."-Romans 2:11***
- C. Belief in God's judgments is not a secondary doctrine of the Christian faith; it is an essential truth. It is foundational to our faith because it is consistent with the Bible's revelation of God's holy and righteous character, and it lies at the very heart of the gospel itself.
- D. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture consistently reveals God as both Savior and righteous Judge. Therefore, to minimize or reject His judgments is to misrepresent His holy character and righteous nature.
- E. To deny God as judge also lessens the severity of sin, weakens the message of the gospel, and removes the urgency of the return of Jesus.

II. GOD IS JUST THEREFORE HE MUST BE A RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

- A. The Bible consistently describes God as perfectly just. Justice is not merely one of His actions, it is part of His very holy nature. Everything God does is righteous, fair, impartial, and true.
- B. Because He is just, He always rewards righteousness, judges evil, keeps His promises, and never acts unfairly.
 - 1. ***Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"-Gen 18:25***
 - 2. ***Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.-Ps 89:14***

3. ***"But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness."*-Ps 9:7-8**

4. ***"Fear God and keep His commandments... For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil."-Ecclesiastes 12:13-14***

C. God is a Judge because He is the supreme Lawgiver and the very source and standard of all righteousness. As the uncreated Creator, and sovereign Lord of the universe, He alone has the authority to define what is good and evil, right and wrong, and to establish His perfect moral law. Because His judgments flow from His own holy and righteous nature, He alone has the sovereign authority to judge every person with perfect justice, and uphold His holy law.

1. ***"For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us."-Is 33:22***

D. This is why Scripture warns us not to take the place of God's role as Judge. While we are called to exercise discernment and make righteous judgments according to God's Word, we are never given the authority to sit in ultimate judgment over others. That authority belongs to God alone because He is the only perfect Lawgiver and Judge.

1. ***"Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?" — James 4:11-12***

III. WHY GOD'S JUDGEMENTS ARE AN ESSENTIAL BELIEF

A. THE BIBLE DESCRIBES GOD AS A JUDGE

1. If we believe that the Scriptures are the inerrant and infallible Word of God, and that they are God's authoritative revelation of Himself, then we must also believe what they plainly declare: the Lord is the Judge of all the earth (Genesis 18:25).

2. To deny God's role as Judge is to deny the testimony of the very Scriptures that reveal this about His holy character.
3. Because the Bible is God's inspired and authoritative Word, it is the final standard for truth, holiness, righteousness, and morality. It defines what is holy and sinful, what is right and wrong, and serves as the divine standard by which every belief, every action, and every person is judged.

B. IT GIVES MEANING TO THE CROSS

1. The cross can only be fully understood when we recognize the seriousness of sin, the perfection of God's holy standard, and His righteous obligation to judge sin.
2. Jesus did not die merely to demonstrate God's love; He died to satisfy God's perfect justice. At the cross, God's love and justice met as Christ bore the judgment our sins deserved so that all who believe might be forgiven.
 - a) "Without divine judgment, the cross becomes unnecessary."
 - b) "The cross is where God's love and God's justice meet. God cannot simply overlook sin. It had to be judged."-John MacArthur
 - c) "The doctrine of judgment is rooted in the holiness of God. Remove God's holiness, and judgment disappears. Remove judgment, and the cross loses its significance."-RC Sproul

C. IT IS CENTRAL TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

1. The gospel begins with God, not man. Because God is perfectly holy and absolutely righteous, He cannot ignore or overlook sin. As the righteous Judge of all the earth, He must judge evil in accordance with His holy character.
 - a) ***For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.-Rom 6:23***

2. The gospel is good news because, in His great love, God provided what His justice required, judgement on sin through His own Son. He satisfied His justice through Jesus' sacrificial death while extending mercy to those who were guilty and truly deserved it.
 - a) ²³ ***for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.-Rom 3:23-26***
3. Paul's gospel included God's future judgements:
 - a) ³⁰ ***Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."*-Acts 17:30-31**
 - b) ***"Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, 'Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you.'"-Acts 24:25***

D. ASSURES US THAT EVIL WILL NOT HAVE THE LAST WORD

1. Without final judgment, injustice and evil would have the last word. God promises that every act of wickedness will be addressed.
 - a) ***For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, whether good or evil.-Ecclesiastes 12:14***
 - b) ***"And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" Heb 4:13***

(1) "If there is no Judgment Day, then there is no ultimate justice."-Tim Keller

2. Victims of oppression can trust that God will bring perfect justice, even when human courts fail.

3. THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT

- a) The Great White Throne Judgment is the final judgment of all unbelievers at the end of human history. It is the last and most severe judgment described in Scripture. It is the final demonstration of God's perfect justice before the creation of the new heaven and new earth.

(1) ¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second ¹⁵ death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.-Rev 20:11-15

E. IT MOTIVATES BELIEVERS TO LIVE FAITHFULLY

1. The Bible teaches that every believer will one day stand before Jesus and give an account of how we stewarded the life He graciously entrusted to us. We will answer for how we used our time, talents, spiritual gifts, resources,(money), opportunities to advance His kingdom, and for our faithfulness in proclaiming and living out the gospel.

2. This is known as the judgement seat of Christ

- a) ⁹ *Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. ¹⁰For 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. -2Cor 5:9-10*
- b) *For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. ¹¹ For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God."¹² So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.-Rom 14:10-12*
- c) ¹¹ *Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,-2 Peter 3:11*