Date : **8th November 2026**
Theme : **Making our Election sure**
Topic : **The Judgment to come.**
Passage : **Hebrews 9:27**
Key Verse : ***... For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?... 1 Peter 4:17 nkjv***

Introduction
The Judgment everyone must face is a future event. Very few contemplate this matter because we perceive this matter to be something far into the future. After all, we have more urgent matters to attend to. *Who has the time to think so far ahead? Someday when all is done, maybe, I will consider.* The main problem with such mentality is that, there may neither be time to consider, nor time to change; it will be too late. *...the time has come for judgment to begin...*

There is a saying that *to be forewarned is to be forearmed*.
Now is the time to examine what this Judgment is all about.

We will examine the kinds of judgment that await us.
- Who will be the Judge?
- What will be the basis of our Judgement? Can we know it now?
- What will be the (consequences or rewards) — outcome?

What kinds of Judgment await every man on earth?
There are 3 kinds of Judgment.
Every person will face only one kind depending on his status.
They are all fixed appointments so there will be no cancellation or postponement:
We must all appear at the appointed time. *2 Corinthians 5:10*

1. First: Judgment Seat of Christ (Bema).
The Judge will be the Lord Jesus, Himself.

a. Who will appear for this Judgment? (soon after the Rapture)
Covenant keepers, true believers, the redeemed ones, sometimes called ...*the church of the first born, whose names are written in Heaven,* also called ...*the spirits of righteous men made perfect ... Hebrews 12:23.*

Not every *Christian* will be there; only those registered in the Book of Life.
Two weeks ago, I spoke on the Song and Signs of life of the Redeemed to help us evaluate whether we are true believers. *Hebrews 6:4-6* details the severe spiritual state of those who *have once been enlightened* and *then have fallen away.* This means that, those who had once believed, but have departed from the Lord, will not make it.

b. What is the purpose of this solemn Judgment?
- The purpose is for those registered in the Book of Life to give an account of our lives. Those who make it to this Judgment are truly blessed; yet the solemn proceedings in the presence of Jesus, the righteous Judge, will be one of reverent accountability and an intensely transparent moment.

Why? Because of
- Fire of testing (and reality of loss)
To be subject to the Fire Test: loss or gain of reward. Believers, whose works survive the test, will receive a reward, while those, whose works, done out of

selfishness or pride, will be burned up — the reality of loss may bring a profound sense of grief or regret in that moment.
...he himself will be saved...1 Corinthians 3:15

- Perfect exposure before God's holiness.
  All secrets, hidden motives laid bare; this reality, in the presence of Jesus, will be breathtakingly solemn.

- We will be evaluated for rewards, not condemnation.
  ...for things done in our bodies, both good and bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10
  Romans 8:1 says no condemnation for them who are in Christ Jesus.

  The deeds done in the body are evaluated for their eternal value.
  - *good* refers to our obedience to things done in God's will and for His glory.
  - *bad*, like selfishness, insubmission, though Scripture is silent on the outcome.

  How do you think you will feel on that day?

c. What will be the basis of Judgement?

i) The criteria of God's judgement are explicitly spelt out in God's Word.
God is not arbitrarily judgemental, but He will judge justly.
God's recording system keeps track of everything we have done, our thoughts, motives and intentions of our hearts.

ii) The procedure will likely be simple.
Our personal records will be *unscrolled*, similar to how we scroll through our computer files; everything will be visible.

- The first check will be made in the Book of Life to ensure that our names are listed.

- Secondly, another set of records to show the good works done for Jesus.
  Works done for personal gain possess zero spiritual value in the eyes of God.
  ...the flesh profits nothing... John 6:63
  ...suffer loss of reward... 1 Corinthians 3:15 (burned up by God's test of fire)

iii) Main principles of Judgment. **T.R.A.C.K.S**

① According to the **Truth** of God's Word.
... Now we know that God's judgement against those who do such things is based on truth. Roman 2:2 niv

② According to the inner **Reality** of our spiritual condition.
...The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart (= inner reality behind human façade). 1 Samuel 16:7 niv

- God's evaluation is based on spiritual reality, not superficial outward traits.

- Accountability for our words. Words serve as the evidence or testimony, exposing what is truly inside our heart.
  The genuine reality of what resides in our heart comes through our speech.
  We will give an account for every idle word spoken. *Matthew 12:36,37*.

③ According to our **Actions** and motives.
God's judgement is comprehensive. God will render to each person according to their deeds and what is recorded in the books. *Romans 2:6; Revelations 20:12*

- Can we do anything about the records? Yes, while we are alive.

- To be prepared, we are watchful for the Master's return.
  - Delayed accountability is not the same as absence of accountability.
    The unfaithful steward falls into the delay trap: assuming the Master's return is too far off *Luke 12:45*.
    The faithful steward is found doing the Master's will when the Master returns.
  - Caring for the Master's household.
    While the faithful steward cares for his Master's servants by meeting their needs, the unfaithful steward abuses His Master's resources for himself.

④ According to our **Confession** for Jesus before men.

- This includes confession of His greatness (praise of adoration).
  What we confess indicates our faith in His promises.
- Confession of His Lordship and our faith by witnessing
  ...whoever acknowledges (confesses) Me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. Luke 12:8

⑤ According to **Knowledge**, revelation, greater privilege or blessing

- Principle of proportional accountability
  To whom <u>much is given</u>, <u>much is demanded</u>; from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. *Luke 12:48*
  Everyone given more resources, education, spiritual insight or leadership authority will be held to a higher standard than someone with less.
- The end of the unfaithful servant. *Matthew 25:30*
  He was given one talent, but hid it and committed the sin of omission.
  - The Lord's warning against dead faith: *cast out into the outer darkness.*
    God called him wicked because he did nothing with what he was given.
  - Why is it so serious?
    Jame 4:17 said ...*to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin...faith without works is dead James 2:26*.
    (A hypocrite professes faith in Christ but does not serve his Master; he does not make it to the Bema).
- Ignorance vs Knowledge
  A servant who <u>knowingly disobeys</u> the Master faces severe punishment, while a servant who does wrong out of <u>genuine ignorance</u> receives a lighter penalty. Ignorance does not make a wrong act completely innocent, but responsibility scales with how much truth a person actually knows but wilful ignorance will receive nothing.

⑥ **Survival** from the Fire Test.

- The Fire Test is a QUALITY test
  The quality of our works, mentioned in *Daniel 12:3,* include turning people to righteousness and souls won for Christ and discipling them.
  ...warning every man and teaching every man... to present every man mature in Christ... Colossians 1:28
- Works for Jesus carried out with...
  - Pure motives ie Kingdom first. Only what's done for Christ will last.
  - Obedience to His Commandments and faith in His promises.
  - Power of the Holy Spirit.

2. **SECOND: Judgment of the Gentile nations at the close of the Great Tribulation.**
   This Judgment is called the Throne of Christ's glory. *Matthew 25:31-46*
   - This is a last day event where there will be worldwide hostility toward Israel; some nations will attack and others will protect her.

   - This Judgement is for the Gentiles only, excluding Jews and Christians.
     It will take place after the Bema.

3. **Third: Judgment of the Great White Throne.**
   a. This will take place after the Millennium.
      As recoded in Revelation 20 and 21, this will be the final Judgment.

   b. Who will be there?
      i) Revelation 21:8 lists people who will be there: they are people who will not enter the Kingdom of heaven.
         - the cowardly are people who *shrink back* in fear over faithfulness to Christ
         - unbelieving are those who are faithless, untrustworthy, unbelief
         - vile are the morally corrupt, abominable, detestable in the sight of God
         - murderers are those who commit unlawful killing, harbour unrepentant hatred
         - sexually immoral include fornicator, adulterer, illicit sex, incest, homosexuality
         - sorcerers include magic arts, witchcraft, drug use, spiritism, divination etc
         - idolaters give allegiance or love to an idol or the world system, instead of Christ.

      ii) Those who refuse to change from pride to humility. *Matthew 18:3-4*
      ...unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the Kingdom...Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.

      iii) Those who had departed from the faith will be at this Judgment. *Hebrews 6:4-8*

      iv) *1 Corinthians 6:9,10* The unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God: neither fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites, thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers, extortioners, will inherit the kingdom of God.

   c. Their destiny.
      They will end in the Lake of fire, a punishment that will last forever.

Application

a) Based on the First and Third judgments, where do you think would be your personal destiny?

b) The choice we must make.
   2 Corinthians 5:11 Knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.

What kinds of questions will Judge Jesus ask all true believers at the Judgment?
Accountability questions as a covenant keeper.

1. **His Commandments**
   Question: What did you do with them?
   Why would this be so important?

   Because knowing and keeping them is proof of love for Him. *John 14:21*

   What are the essential commandments for which we must give account?
   The two main ones are:
   - The Great Commandment — Love God, Love neighbour.

   - The Great Commission — Make disciples of all nations.

2. **Basic duties of every believer — Faithfulness**.
   - As an exemplary father (or mother) — raise your children in the fear of the Lord.

   - As an exemplary husband — love your wife, honour her.

   - As an exemplary wife — submit to your husband.

   - As an exemplary neighbour — love your neighbour as yourself?
     (Neighbour = family, relatives, *oikos*, colleagues, anyone in your sphere of influence).

   - As an exemplary church member to those in your church.

3. **Duties as a Kingdom servant**.
   - Giftedness. Using God-given abilities to build His Church.
     The more gifted we are, the greater the accountability.
     The Parable of the Talents. *Matthew 25:14-30*

   - Leadership authority given.
     Did you lead God's people to godly living, growth?
     (as cell leader, elder, teacher, disciple maker)

   - Was every gift (eg ability, resource, time, relationships) applied without hypocrisy or personal gain? Was it use with the motive of edifying the church? *1 Corinthians 14:12*

4. **Special assignments**.
   - The work God has prepared for you to do. *Ephesians 2:10*

   - Open doors, *Kairos* opportunities for a specific people group.

5. Personal Testimony — your walk with God. Colossians 1:10

6. What would be the outcome if we were found faithful?
For those who make every effort, faithfully serving.
...with all your might...(wholeheartedly) Ephesians 6:7

- The commendation *...well done good and faithful servant... Matthew 25:21*

- The Victor's Crowns for overcomers *2 Timothy 2:5*
  - Crown of Righteousness — those who love His appearing. *2 Timothy 4:8.*
  - Crown of Life — overcomers of temptation. *James 1:12*
  - Crown of Glory — shepherds of the flock. *1 Peter 5:4*
  - Incorruptible crown — those who exercise self-control to finish the race. *1 Corinthians 9:25*

These are the most precious and useful treasures. Aim for them.

- Greater authority for a greater role in eternity.
  Governing cities. *Luke 19:17,19*
- The Joy of the Lord. *Matthew 25:21, 23*
- A glorious welcome.
  ...entry into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord... Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you... 2 Peter 1:11
- Honour by the Lord Himself.
  ...I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing... Acts 7:56
- The greatest blessing — our names listed in the Book of Life.
  rejoice...your names are written in heaven... Luke 10:20

Application:

- Therefore make every effort to be registered and never be blotted out of Lamb's Book of Life. *Revelation 3:5*
  Let our service record show maximum entries.
- Strive to win the Victor's Crown.
- Nothing compares with the honour bestowed by our Lord Jesus.
  The greater the honour, the greater your joy.