

Judgment for the Ungodly

The Christian has no need to fear death or judgment (2 Ti 1:7). He has hope for the future (1 Thess 13:18). But, it is not so for the ungodly. If the ungodly individual would judge himself, he would not fall under God's judgment (1 Co 11:31); but, he fails to do so so God will judge him (Ec 12:14) because he suppresses the truth in unrighteousness (Ro 1:18).

The Lord is returning one day and the apostle John wrote:

The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation (Jn 5:28–29).

Regarding ungodly men, the apostle Paul wrote:

In accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil (Ro 2:5–9).

Men are responsible to a holy God. He will avenge his children and punish those who disregard him:

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you (1 Th 4:3–8, ESV).

The Holy Spirit will eventually give up on an individual who lives in ongoing disobedience (Ge 6:3). Once that happens, men are past the point of no return:

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie (Ro 1:24–25)...Who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them (Ro 1:32).

They will not see heaven:

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God (1 Co 6:9–10).

The wicked are slaves to sin but the righteous are slaves to Christ:

For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness (Ro 6:19).

The Christian should not become entangled again with the world system: Don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Jas 4:4

He has been set aside for God and his purposes:

For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial [Satan]? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? 2 Co 6:14–15).

He no longer walks in darkness: I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness (Jn 8:12).

But for the ungodly individual, it is not so. He may appear righteous to the world, but he is dead on the inside:

For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness (Mt 23:27–28).

The sinner is lawless: Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness (1 Jn 3:4).

His contribution to the world is devilish: In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother (1 Jn 3:10).

He cannot sit at two tables to enjoy two feasts. He'll partake of one or the other: You cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons (1 Co 10:20–21).

His desires are the desires of the kingdom of darkness. Jesus said: You cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires (Jn 8:43).

The righteous have nothing in common with the wicked; and therefore, they are at an impasse. They cannot find common ground: Can two walk together lest they be agreed? Am 3:3. The answer is an obvious *no, they cannot*.

The Lord will divide the sheep from the goats (Mt 25:32, 33)¹:

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us (1 Jn 2:19).

¹ Scholars believe sheep and goat references may be figurative for individuals or for nations.

Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him (1 Jn 2:4). If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar (1 Jn 4:20). The godless man is known by his fruits:

The works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like...But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Ga 5:19–21-23a).

Those who do not abide in the Lord go to hell. Jesus said: If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned (Jn 15:6).

Jesus is the one denied by ungodly men (Jud 4). Some turn their back on him preferring wickedness to his holiness. John wrote: This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil (Jn 3:19).

Paul said he companion in the faith Demas, abandoned his post having loved the world too much: For Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica (2 Ti 4:10).

Some desire righteousness (Mt 6:33). Others do not: Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law (Pr 29:18).

Paul was saved but never cavalier about standing before the Lord: But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified (1 Co 9:27).

The Christian must endure hardship until the rapture (1 Thess. 4:16, 17): Evil men and seducers shall grow worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived (2 Ti 3:13). He will go to heaven for his faith (Rom. 10:9, 10); but, the ungodly one will not: But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death (Re 21:8).