

In John 5:24 Jesus tells the Jewish leaders that whoever hears his word and believes God sent him has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. Will believers not be judged at the end? Or, is he referring to believers not being punished according to their sins? But if that were the case wouldn't this verse be translated differently? Thanks in advance for your answer!

Jesus said: Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life (Jn 5:24).

When one believes in God, God gives him eternal life. After justification, the process of sanctification begins and one day the believer will be glorified.

The moment one believes, he passes from death to life and he will not be brought into condemnation. Jesus had said that: he is God (v. 19), he raises the dead (v. 21) and he will judge (v. 22).

The apostle Paul wrote:

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation....For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Ro 10:9–13

Believe in the original language means *to be convinced*.

Satan tries to get men to fall (Jb 2:4, 5); therefore, men must abide in Christ (Jn 15:4) so that they can produce good fruits (Jn 15:4). The Christian should sanctify himself because the Lord is returning for his bride, the church. Joshua said, "sanctify yourself". Josh 3:5. Paul said one sanctifies himself by: denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, living soberly, righteously and godly, in this present world (Tt 2:11–13) and being zealous for good works (v. 14).

After one believes, God finishes His good work in him. Paul wrote: being confident of this very thing that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ (Php 1:5–6).

Men are born spiritually dead and they must enter *into* life (Jn 3:7). Jesus said: It is better for you to *enter into life* with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire (Mt 18:9, emphasis mine).

The believer will appear at the Judgment Seat of Christ.¹ He will be rewarded for the good he's done in Christ.

Paul wrote:

Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. 1 Co 3:11–15

¹ Also known as the Bema seat.

Unbelievers and make-believers will appear at the Great White Throne Judgement (Re 20:11). They will be judged according to their works and then enter into eternal damnation (Mt 25:41) with varying degrees of punishment (Lk 12:47).

The Judgment Seat of Christ is for rewards; whereas The Great White Throne is for judgment.