

II. Christ has redeemed us (17-21)

Discussion Questions

- What do we learn about the judgement?
- What is the basis for judgement?
- How should this influence our actions/
- Why does it say this should cause us fear if we have already trusted in Christ?
- What does “redeemed” mean?
- What is the relationship between Christ redeeming us and the judgement ?
- What do we learn here about “foreknown” ? How does relate the fact God foreknows the elect?
- How is the period of time when Jesus came referred to? Why is it called the last times? or past them?
- How should Christ’s redemption of us affect our lives and behavior?

Cross-References

Verses on Judgement

2 Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Revelation 22:12 - Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.

Romans 14:10-12 - You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God’s judgement seat. It is written: “As surely as I live,” says the Lord, “every knee will bow before me: every tongue will acknowledge God. “So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Verses on Redemption

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Colossians 1:14 - In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:20 -22 - And through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

1 John 3:16 - this is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Teaching Points

I. God is an impartial judge. He doesn’t favor the rich or poor.

He doesn't favor the famous or the weak. He doesn't favor man or woman, or any race. He is the perfect judge. He's perfectly fair and perfectly just.

2. The basis for the judgement is our deeds. In the book of Acts. Paul was on trial, not really for anything wrong he had done. In the sight of the law, he had done no wrong, but the leader hated him and his cause. They therefore put pressure on the judges who were deciding Paul's case. These unfairly kept him in prison with no evidence and though he had broken no law. Paul repeatedly defended himself saying he had broken no law. But they didn't create about his actions, only about political pressure. The judges over Paul were bad judges, completely unjust. God is not like them. The good news for us is that God doesn't care about political pressure. He will look at our deeds and nothing else.

We all like fairness, right? Fairness makes a good judge.

The bad news is that although we might not be convicted based on the laws of our country, our deeds will condemn us in God's sight, because we have not lived up to His standards. If we are practicing sin, we have reason to fear, knowing that God sees everything we do.

Therefore, we have both good news and bad.

3. More good news (the best news) is that God knows no one can pass this test and provided a way for us to be saved from judgement the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. Christ redeems us.

Nothing else can. No amount of money can save us. No quantity of materials. No amount of effort. Christ's blood is the only thing that can wipe out our debt and place us to right standing with God. This blood is precious. It is precious because it belongs to God's Son. He is innocent. He is perfect. He didn't deserve to die. Jesus has the utmost value in God's eyes, but God gave Him up for us. This was a very high price to pay. How should this high price of redemption affect us now?

4. Obviously we should be grateful. At the same time, it should remind us about the seriousness of sin. If sin wasn't serious. Christ wouldn't have to die. But He did. Every single we commit contributed to the necessity for Christ to hang on that cross, bleeding out in front of the world. Every sin we commit held Him there. He had to suffer the penalty for every sin we have ever or will commit. If our hearts are sensitive to pain or suffering, this will touch us. Hopefully, it will motivate us to stop it. Stop sinning. Sin is not forgiven for free. Sin must be punished. Christ took it so we wouldn't have to. That should motivate us to love and serve Him.

5. He was foreknown. Here is another use of that word. It indicates again that this word doesn't just mean that God knew ahead of time. God didn't just know ahead of time that Christ would die. He planned it. The myriads of prophecies in the Old Testament confirm that God planned this ahead of time. Therefore, when the Bible says the God foreknew the elect, it doesn't just mean that he knew ahead of. Time we would believe. It means that he ordained it ahead of time.

The last times - Between Christ's first and second coming is all the period of the "last time" or "last days" or last day" or "last times".

We are in the final era of the world. If two thousand years ago already the last times, now it must be at the end of the last times!

Application: The world is drawing to an end. Are you redeeming the time? Are you ready?