

Sermon Discussion Guide:

The Great White Throne

Sunday, October 24, 2021

Scripture: **Revelation 20:11-15**

Series: **Revelation**

OVERVIEW

If we're being honest, most Christians are not too fearful of standing before God someday to give an account of our life and deeds. This is because at present, we assume that our sins will remain secret from being exposed. However, there is going to be a reckoning—a great day of judgment. All of human history is leading to this event. When the day eventually comes, there will be no hiding of our sins, since they will find us out. The truth is, **you will one day stand before God; and this can be your greatest hope rather than your greatest fear.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Revelation 4:2-6; Psalm 103:19; Isaiah 6:1-5; Acts 3:17-21; Daniel 7:9-10; Revelation 13:8; Ephesians 1:3-4; Hebrews 4:16; Hebrews 9:27-28

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In today's passage we learn that a day of judgment before God is coming. How often do you think about this reality, both for yourself and for your unsaved friends and family? Are you fearful? Are you hopeful? Or do you not think about it that much? If not, why?
2. How does it make you feel knowing that all your sins (even secret sins) will be exposed before God? How often do you think about the fact that God already knows your secret sins (past and present) even if no one else does? How does this motivate you in your faith?
3. John's vision describes a great white throne. What does this throne symbolize? *[holiness, purity, and a perfection of justice. It is also a sign that the creation is fading away. The old order is coming to an end, giving way to a new order as God is renewing His creation.]*
4. In verse 12, John describes how "books were opened," and then, "another book was opened, which is the book of life." What do these books symbolize? *[They are records of our lives—reflecting reality, and are just. They speak the truth; no jury is needed. The book of life contains a record of names, not crimes, written before creation (Rev. 13:8). Believers will be judged by Christ, but with Christ's imputed righteousness, we will not be condemned for our deeds and escape the great white throne judgment. Yet, we will stand before Christ and we will give an account to God. See also 2 Corinthians 5:10.]*
5. How should living in the light of God's coming judgment affect your life? What should you be doing, or cease doing, in order to live out your mission and your calling as a faithful servant of Christ? Are you living with a purpose? Or are you feeling stuck or apathetic?