

Pacific Coast Church

May 5, 1996

First John 4:17-18

Pastor Mike

96-18

Judgment Day

Preparing for the Most Important Day of Your Afterlife

1 John 4:17-18 -----> 17) In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. 18) There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. (NIV)

1. Judgment Facts for Christians & Non-Christians Alike

A. God Has _____ His Judgment

B. God Will _____ The Facts

C. God Will _____ All The Factors

D. God Will _____

2. Christians & Judgment

A. _____ & Trust in It (v.17a)

B. _____ & Live Like Christ (v.17b)

C. _____ & Don't Fear (v.18)

Discussion Questions

These questions are provided to further your application of Sunday's message and to prepare you for PCC's small group discussions.

1. There are obviously a variety of "Judgments" that are promised to take place according to the Bible (eg.: Satan [Rev.20:2-10], Christians [1Cor.3:11-15], the nations after the seven year Tribulation [Mt.25:31-26]; non-Christians after the Millennium [Rev.20:11-15], the nation of Israel [Ezk.34-38], etc.). One of the most important distinctions between God's judgment of Christians as opposed to Non-Christians pointed out in our First John passage is that a Christian's judgment does not involve "punishment". How does this make you feel to ponder that huge difference?

How can God be understood as "just" when someone like the 'thief on the cross' (Lk.23:39-43) will escape punishment on the day of his judgment and a fairly ethical individual who rejects Christ will be held accountable and be punished for all of his sins on the day of his judgment?

2. If there is sufficient evidence in the Bible to believe that Christians are never to be punished for their sins when they stand before God, should they be concerned about their day in court at all? What does the balance of Scripture teach regarding the Christian's coming judgment? What similarities are there besides the ones referenced in Sunday's message?
3. At this point in your life, how do you feel about standing before God? Are their mixed emotions when you consider "forgiveness" and "accountability"? Explain.

How did you feel about this at some other point in your life? Have you ever felt different about this?

4. When you study and ponder the truth about the extent of God's love for His children how are you affected intellectually and emotionally? (See Ephesians 3:18-19.)
5. How do you relate to the "fear paradox" of Exodus 20:20?
6. How does a good couple of weeks of successfully saying 'no' to temptation, boldly standing up for God, and consistently living like Christ change the way you feel about your day before God?
7. Most of us have not "perfected" our love for God quite yet. What would it mean for you to take a positive step in that direction this week?

How can your small group keep you accountable for this?