



Sooke Baptist Church
Sunday, February 13, 2022
9:30am, in-person

also on Facebook Live Stream
and YouTube

A Performance Review
Like No Other
Revelation 20:11-15



Coffee/Question

Interact with this statement:
questions? agree? disagree?

03:00

“The most shattering thought
I’ve ever had is my personal
accountability to God one day.”

(Leonard Ravenhill)



Revelation 20:11-15

Darryl Dash wrote - **the story told in the scripture is better and truer.**

Our passage for today reveals that at the end of this age every person will undergo a performance review – of their entire life.

By whom?

Our passage is very clear, v.11 – by the One who sits on the great white throne. And who is it that sits there?

God had revealed to Abraham almost 4000 years ago... that he is the Judge of all the earth, Genesis 18:25.

Paul spoke of this theme when he was in Athens almost two thousand years ago. Look at what he said, Acts 17:29-31

Acts 17:29-31

Therefore, since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone – an image made by man's design and skill.

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed.

He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.

Paul preached what Abraham had confessed - God will judge the world... with justice.

How is this good news? How is this... a truer and better story?

The only time a person... appears before a judge... is when?

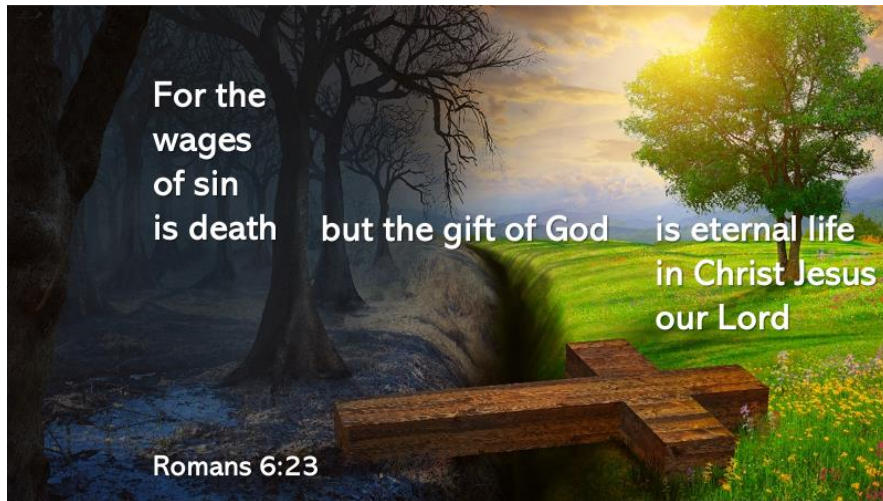
When there is some evidence or an accusation that they have broken the law.

It is the responsibility of the judge to investigate the evidence... and then to rule on a person's guilt or innocence.

In the case of humanity – the evidence is irrefutable... all have sinned.

How do we know this is true?

Because the Bible tells us...



The fact that all of us die, is the proof... that all of us have sinned... and stand guilty before God.

But here's the astonishing news of the gospel... the truer and better story. Paul told the Athenians that the very God who is the Judge of all peoples... in this present time commands... all people everywhere to repent. Why does God do so? Because he is love... and because he loves humanity.

Romans 5:8 says...

Romans 5:8
God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.

CS Lewis said in the Pilgrim's Regress,

Romans 5:8

**God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us.**

**“Redemption is an act of glorious goodness,
of gracious generosity,
of undeserved mercy and kindness.”**

C.S. Lewis, The Pilgrim's Regress

How is the gift of God received?

By repentance and belief in Jesus.



To repent is to change one's mind... about God... and one's sin condition... and his Savior, Jesus Christ.

To repent is to change the direction of one's life... so that instead of moving away from God, one moves towards him.

But how can people in our day and time, know the gospel is true?

What did Paul tell the Athenians?

Acts 17:29-31

God... commands all people everywhere to repent.

For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed.

**He has given proof of this to all men
by raising him from the dead.**

The proof that the gospel is true... is the resurrection of Jesus. If the dead body of Jesus lies in a tomb somewhere, if his bones can be found, then the gospel is the most deceptive and perverse faith ever foisted upon humanity.

But if Jesus rose from the dead... which he did... this news is good news for all people...and is intended to persuade, to compel every person to take action... to run to the Savior, and to lay hold of him... in order to be saved.

God says... there will be a day of judgment.

Humanity's time upon this present earth... has an end date... set by God. But right now, the Judge of the earth says... there is opportunity to be saved. The heart of God is that he wants all peoples to repent; he does not want anyone to perish. This is why two thousand years have gone by since the resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

God is giving to humanity extended opportunity.

But the Judge of the earth must make right... the brokenness of the earth. The Judge of the earth must remove the cancer of evil and the shroud of death. The Judge of the earth must exile the corrupting influence of the fallen angels.

And he will do so... when Jesus returns to the earth.

Our passage for today sets before the reader the moment when gospel opportunity ends.

Let's work our way through these verses.

v.11a – “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it.”

Why is the throne described as being great?

Because of... the One who sits on it.

Why is the throne described as being white?

Because of... the holiness of the One who sits on it.

v.11b – Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

We've already seen this same scene... twice in the book of Revelation – at the opening of the seals and the pouring out of the bowls.

Revelation 6:14

The sky receded like a scroll, rolling up,
and every mountain and island was removed
from its place.

Revelation 16:20

Every island fled away, and the mountains
could not be found.

This same scene has also been described by Peter in his second letter.

2 Peter 3:10-13:

But **the day of the Lord** will come like a thief. **The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.**

¹¹ Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. **That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.**

But in keeping with his promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

Peter wrote that the physical creation itself will be impacted by the appearing of Jesus' awesome majesty and power.

As we place scripture alongside of scripture, we begin to get a sense of how God will make all things new.

The moment he does so... will be sudden.

The moment he does so... will be catastrophic.

At this moment God will uncover all things...



... as he brings to an end... the era CS Lewis described as the shadowlands.

v.12 – And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

What is being communicated by the phrase... "and books were opened?"

This picture of books... represents the knowledge of God... who knows all things done by all people.

God does not lack information, nor will he forget or overlook something or be deceived or manipulated by someone.

Other passages in the Old and New Testaments confirm this emphasis being made in Revelation 20:12.

Psalm 62:12: ...you, O Lord, are loving. Surely you will reward each person according to what they have done.

Jeremiah 17:10: I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.

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

The last week of his life, Jesus came to the temple in Jerusalem every day... and there he taught.

Matthew records these teachings in chapters 21-25.

Matthew 21-25

The Two Sons
The Tenants
The Wedding Banquet
Paying Taxes to Caesar
Marriage at the Resurrection
The Greatest Commandment
Whose Son is the Christ?
The Seven Woes
The Signs at the End of the Age
The Ten Virgins
The Talents
The Sheep and Goats

Matthew 25:31-46

Matthew 25:31-46

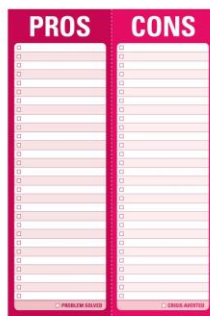
Jesus' teachings the final week of his life, emphasized that a person's love of God will be expressed by their obedience to God and be seen by their actions.

This emphasis ... made by Jesus... days before his death... and in Revelation 20:12... is so important that it is stated a second time in Revelation 20:13...

v.13 – The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what ..they had done.

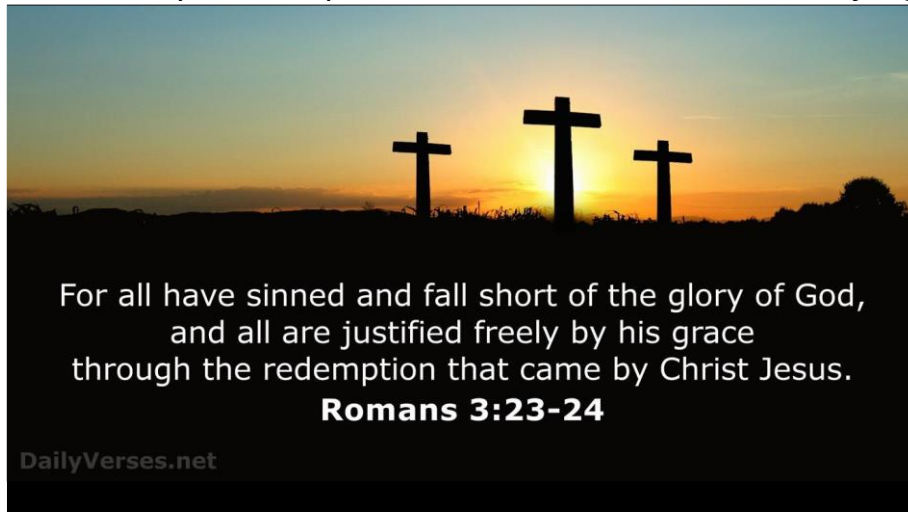


We know from the gospel that God will not place a person's good and bad actions and words in a weigh scale... and if the good outweighs the bad then that person is welcomed to live with him, and if it doesn't... then they are exiled.



Neither will God use a pro/con sheet to decide who lives with him and who doesn't.

The basis by which a person's actions and words will be judged... is God himself.



All of us fall short of what? God's glory.

It isn't that we don't do good things... but that we don't do them... 24/7/365/80.

Our goodness is not only inconsistent... but it falls woefully short when put alongside of God's goodness.

The judgment before the great white throne will confirm this truth.

There will be no one who will be able to protest to God their innocence, and accuse God of being... "unfair."

The good news of the gospel is that what we lack, God in Jesus Christ freely offers. There is forgiveness for all who will acknowledge their sin, believing that Jesus died in their place and in doing so paid their sin debt in full.

Those who trust in Jesus are justified – that is, the goodness of Jesus is credited to them, and they are viewed by God as being...



... of all crimes.

Look at v.12 again - another book was opened. Our passage mentions this book twice.

Revelation 20:12, 15

Another book was opened, which is
the book of life.

If anyone's name was not found written
in the book of life,
they were thrown into the lake of fire.

The scripture speaks of this book a number of times in other parts of the Bible.

Luke 10:20

(...to the disciples after they returned from
their ministry trip, Jesus said...)

“Do not rejoice that the spirits submit
to you but rejoice that your names are
written in heaven.”

Written where in heaven? In the book of life.

Philippians 4:2-3

I plead with Euodia and I plead with
Syntyche to agree with each other in the
Lord. Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow,
help these women who have contended
at my side in the cause of the gospel,
along with Clement and the rest of my
fellow workers, whose names are in
the book of life.

The book of life is a testimony to the super-abounding grace of God.
Let me explain. (Ideas from Joshua Butler)

Sin is corrosive.

Its nature is to consume our identity, to both devour and diminish who God created us to be.

Sin is deceptive.

Like the emperor in the children's story who thought he was wearing fantastical clothes, when in reality, he was naked... sin convinces us that life without God is truly the best life... when, truth be told.... it reduces us to ashes.

It is the heart of God to heal the disease of sin in all of us by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Jesus' invitation is... come to me... be embraced by my love... and live.

But to come to God through Jesus... a person must lay down their sin and agree with God's assessment of who they have become.

What Jesus did on the cross... for us... cannot be earned... it is a gift... and can only be received... by faith.

And if this gift is rejected, if Jesus is despised?

Look again at v.15 – **If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, they were thrown into the lake of fire...** [which is the second death.]

God will honor a person choice to live without him.

God will not kill or torture those whose names are not written in the book of life.

Rather, he will let them go.

Remember the prodigal son's father, remember Romans 1.

God will allow them to live as they please... in a place... where he is absent.

The second death will be like life on the earth.

It will be an embodied existence.

But without God.

There will be none of his love, his goodness and his blessing.

Without the Holy Spirit, there will be no restraining influence that stops sin's downward spiral and its corruption.

Without the church, there will be no seasoning, like salt, that flavors that existence.

Without the sustaining and reigning presence of Jesus, it will be everyone for themselves... cruelty will reign.

Tim Keller writes...

**The second death is the trajectory of a person, living a self-absorbed, self-centered life, going on forever and ever.
In short, the second death, is simply one's freely chosen identity apart from God on a trajectory into infinity.**

Tim Keller, "The Reason for God"

This scene, which we've read about in Revelation 20... is intended by God to impact us... profoundly.

If you have trusted in God's Savior, this scene is intended to fill your heart with hope - the reign of evil will end, and the One who has saved you, will save you completely.

So, live wholeheartedly for him.

Don't just exist... or put in time.

Live with gratitude.

Live with expectancy.

This scene is also intended to fill our hearts with urgency – God has set a date when he will judge the earth and all of humanity.

Jesus already has taken upon himself the righteous judgment humanity deserved... for the crimes we committed.

Therefore, no one needs to stand before God and be sentenced to the second death. No one.

Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient for all.

The grace of God cannot be exhausted.

But when the day of judgment arrives, which God has appointed.... the offer of amnesty ends.

These truths need to grip our hearts afresh... and enflame our witness.
Today is the day of salvation.

If you don't yet follow Jesus... these truths are meant to convince you to run to Jesus.

You are known to him.

You are loved by him.

When he hung on a cross, he hung there for you.

He does not want you to live without him, in this life, nor in the next.

Hear his voice in the words of Scripture... come to me and live.

Will you come?

Prayers of the People:

We join with the psalmist who wrote in the ninth psalm, and say, “The Lord is a stronghold in times of trouble.”

We thank you that in you we find strength... each day.
We thank you that we are held in your hands... every moment.

We acknowledge that we belong to you and were bought with the life-blood of Jesus Christ, and nothing and no one can undo what Jesus did for our salvation.

Prayers of the People:

We long for our Lord Jesus Christ.

We long for the day when we will sin no more.

In this present time, we trust your promises and commit ourselves to walk by faith and not by sight.

Amen

El Redil Caldas Church Family

Cindy is on the church leadership Team, and also works as a nurse.

We pray for Cindy that the Spirit of wisdom would fill her life that she and the other deacons would know your plans for Caldas and be given power from heaven to share the gospel and disciple the saved. Amen



Cindy Correa

Prayers of the People: for Rick Wismer

We ask you, O God, to provide indigenous staff to join the Blue Bus Mobile Outreach.

We ask you that the youth who participate each week might embrace your love and follow Jesus with all of their heart.

We give you thanks for the nine youth who received a Bible on January 30 – may your Spirit give them understanding as they read the Scripture. Amen

Prayers of the People:

O Lord on behalf of your people I repent and turn from that which you call sin.

Please...extend to us your mercy.

Cause your face to shine upon us.

Fill your surrendered servants with the fulness of your Spirit... may your glory fill the earth... may Jesus draw men and women to himself.

Amen