



The Judgments Series Part 24

The Purpose of the *Bema*



It is not to judge believers for sin of any kind, confessed or unconfessed.

“Scripture teaches that for the believer God’s justice has already been fully and forever satisfied at the Cross in relation to the believer’s sins.

If God were to punish the believer judicially for his sins for which Christ has already rendered payment, He would be requiring two payments for sin and would therefore be unjust.

Such a concept (punishment for sin) erroneously disparages the all-sufficiency of Christ's death on the cross."

Christ paid the penalty for the believer's pre- and post-conversion sins.

The believer will forfeit rewards which he could have received, but he will not be punished in the judicial sense of "paying" for his sins.

Scripture teaches that all sins, both confessed and unconfessed, have been forgiven and taken care of by the work of Christ on the Cross so the Christian will never face those sins again at the judgment.



The following verses demonstrate the basic principle of the complete and finished nature of Christ's work:

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

Romans 5:19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

Colossians 2:10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

These verses state the complete results or conclusion:

Hebrews 8:12 For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And I will remember their sins no more.

Hebrews 10:17-18 And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more. 18 Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer *any* offering for sin.

Isaiah 44:22 I have wiped out your transgressions like a thick cloud, And your sins like a heavy mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.

Psalms 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Micah 7:19 He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities under foot. Yes, Thou wilt cast all their sins Into the depths of the sea.

Isaiah 38:17 Lo, for *my own* welfare I had great bitterness; It is Thou who hast kept my soul from the pit of nothingness, For Thou hast cast all my sins behind Thy back.

These verses show we cannot come into judgment.

Why?

Because Christ has born our judgment by being made a curse in our place:

Romans 5:1 Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

John 3:18 He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 5:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. Then why do we have to confess sin in this life?

And why does God judge believers for unconfessed sin as with Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5 and some of the believers in Corinth in **1 Corinthians 11:28f**?

Because this is a completely different matter.

(1) Unconfessed sin relates to fellowship in this life, not one's relationship or standing with God.

Unconfessed sin stands as a barrier to fellowship with the Lord and His control over one's life.

As **Amos 3:3** says, “can two walk together unless they be agreed?” Obviously the answer is no.

Confession means we agree with God concerning our sin and want to get back under God’s control.

“Daily forgiveness of those who are within the family of God is distinguished from judicial and positional forgiveness which was applied forensically to all of a person’s sins the moment he believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

We need to distinguish between fellowship forgiveness and legal or forensic forgiveness that justifies us and gives us a standing before God through Christ.

Key Scriptures: Heb. 12:5f and 1 Cor. 11:28-32. These passages:

Explain the nature of God’s judgment of believers in this life.

It is discipline designed to train and bring believers back to a walk with God.

They teach us the basic cause of discipline is failure to examine and confess known sins because that hinders our fellowship with God.

Hebrews 12:5 NIV:

5 And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

1 Corinthians 11:28-32 NIV:

28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.

30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

31 But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment.

32 Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.



“Condemned along with the world”

in **1 Corinthians 11:32** most likely refers to the judgment of **Rom. 1:24f**, moral degeneration and the gradual breakdown in the moral fiber of men when they turn away from God.

1 Corinthians 11:32 NIV:

32 Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

Romans 1:24 NIV:

24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

The same thing happens in the life of believers, but God brings discipline to stop the process.

(2) God does not judge us for our sin in the sense of making us pay the penalty for that sin.

Scripture teaches that Christ’s death was all-sufficient, completely satisfying God’s wrath toward sin in the believer.

The question of sin in regard to God’s justice has been forever satisfied in the mind of God by the all-sufficient sacrifice of His Son.

The penalty for the believer's sins has been fully paid for by Christ, the believer's substitute.

The Christian has been in court, condemned, sentenced, and executed in his substitute, Jesus Christ.

God cannot exact payment for sins twice since payment has been fully and forever paid.

The believer is seen by the Father as clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

God can therefore find no cause for accusing the Christian judicially any more than He can find cause for accusing Jesus Christ.

Therefore, at the judgment seat of Christ forensic punishment will not be meted out for the believer's sins.

Rather, God disciplines us as a father disciplines his sons to bring us back into fellowship that we might be conformed to His Son. It is a family matter.



How do we obtain the Forgiveness of our Sins?



How do we get right with God, regardless of our individual sins?

Just say this Prayer and all of your sins will be forgotten, and you will have Eternal life, with Christ Jesus, in Heaven:

Lord Jesus, I repent of all my sins, and I ask you to come into my life a be my Lord and Savior.

Friends, if you prayed that prayer, I believe that you are born again, and you have ever lasting life, get in a good bible teaching church, and may you keep growing, in the Lord, and may HE use you to help save many souls for His Kingdom !

In, Jesus Mighty Name!

Rev. Jesus Del Rio, Ed