
Encounter(ing) God

Holy Spirit Part 6

Steve Berger August 18, 2019

Review

Encountering Father, Son, Spirit. No mere head knowledge, personal experience! Encountering the Holy Spirit — He — not it — Person, power, priority, purpose. He is our Advantage!

Today's Message — one seldom preached; doesn't fit the church's or the world's appetite for a watered-down, powerless, non-convicting Christianity. We are living in the days that William Booth, founder of *The Salvation Army* warned us about in 1899:

“The chief danger that confronts the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, heaven without hell.”¹

...in other words, a weak, anemic, apathetic Christianity due to the neglect of speaking biblical truth!

- **John 16:7-8,13**

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment... and He will tell you things to come.

The Holy Spirit will convict us about Judgment and tell us things to come!

There are Two Judgments — every person will be judged by one of these two — your choice. One for Believers, one for Unbelievers; one for heavenly rewards, one for hellish retribution. Your choice.

Talk of Judgment

Produces a variety of responses — *most rooted in demonic influence*

- **Genesis 3:4**

Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.”

- oldest lie in world

- **Genesis 19:14**

So Lot went out and spoke to his sons-in-law, who had married his daughters, and said, “Get up, get out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city!” But to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking.

- judgment is no joke

- **Psalms 10:13**

Why do the wicked renounce God? He has said in his heart, “You will not require an account.”

- there will be an accounting

¹ William Booth, *In Darkest England and the Way Out* (International Headquarters of the Salvation Army 1890)

- **2 Peter 3:3-7**
“willfully forget” past Judgments — so don’t think about future Judgment!

Two Judgments — Bema Seat and Great White Throne Judgment

1. Bema Seat — place for accounting of life, place of rewards, for Believers!

- *Believers don’t get judged for sin, Jesus already handled that for us*
- Believers give an account for their lives, and get rewarded for good works... obedience
- **Romans 14:10-12**
...For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: “AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD.” So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.
 - *all stand and confess and give an account*
- **2 Corinthians 5:8-11a**
We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;
 - because present with Lord, aim is to be well pleasing to Him
 - *going to receive for what we’ve done, good or bad, valuable or invaluable, productive or non-productive... sow seeds now — harvest eternity*
 - therefore we persuade men — pay attention to this fact! Take heed!

How do Believers give an account for the things we’ve done in our lives?

How do Believers receive from God for those things?

- **1 Corinthians 3:10-15**
According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.
 - **take heed how you build on Christ** — He’s the only foundation — remember!
 - **everyone’s work becomes clear**, Judgment Day declares it, fire reveals what sort it is

Application — *as Believers stand before the Bema, Judgment Seat of Christ to give an account for their lives — our life’s work gets thrown into the fire of God’s purifying judgment — where the **work, motive** and **fruit** gets judged.*

- **endures** — receive an award, **Hebrews 11:6, Matthew 16:27, Luke 6:23, Luke 14:14**

- **2 Timothy 4:8**

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

- **life's work burns** — suffer loss of reward, but still saved

Absolutely convinced...

- if Believers would keep the reality of the Bema Seat in front of them, we would live much more productive lives.
- Martin Luther— as Believer, had two days marked on his calendar, TODAY and THAT DAY, “with THAT DAY in mind, TODAY takes care of itself.”

What about the Judgment of the Unbeliever?

- **Great White Throne Judgment — at the End of the Age**

- **Revelation 20:11-15**

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

- at end of the age, books will open, works of **Unbelievers** revealed

- **Ephesians 2:8-9**

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- judged by works — **problem**

- death and hell cast into lake of fire

Listen — everyone not found in Book of Life is cast in to lake of fire, whether you believe that or not! The eternal fire of burning regret and rejected opportunities to receive Christ will burn in the hearts of people who denied Christ while they lived on earth.

How do I get my name written in the Book of Life?

- **Mark 1:15**

“Repent and believe in the gospel.”

- **John 1:12**

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.

- **Matthew 10:32-33**

“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”

Apart from repenting, believing, receiving and confessing Christ you have zero chance of having your name in the Book of Life, you have 100% chance of hell.

Close

Where you spend eternity is based on your belief; how you spend eternity is based on your works!

The Holy Spirit has told us in advance, what's your decision?

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between the Bema Seat Judgment, and the Great White Throne Judgment?
2. Are believers judged for their sin after they die? Why or why not?
3. Knowing that your life's work will get thrown into the fire of God's purifying judgment — how might that affect your *motives* in doing some of your "good works"?
4. Knowing that your non-believer family and friends will face judgment at the Great White Throne — how does that affect your urgency to tell them the truth about Jesus?

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