

JESUS THE JUDGE **(Acts 17:30-31)**

I. The qualifications of Jesus.

- A. To be a judge in the US, one has to meet certain qualifications.
 - 1. He must have a bachelor's degree in some area and then graduate from law school.
 - 2. He must pass the bar exam and practice as an attorney for a period of time.
 - 3. He must then obtain a judgeship and complete training.
- B. As you can see not just anyone is qualified to be a judge.
- C. One must be very special to be the Judge of all the world.
- D. Jesus is qualified because He is deity.
 - 1. The New Testament proves beyond a shadow of doubt the fact that Jesus is deity.
 - 2. God the Father attested to His Sonship on at least two occasions:
 - a. At Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:17);
 - b. On the mount of transfiguration (Matthew 17:5).
 - 3. Jesus claimed deity (John 8:58).
 - 4. The apostles presented Him as such (Acts 2:36).
- E. Jesus is qualified because He took on flesh but was sinless.
 - 1. Hebrews 4:15.
 - 2. Jesus knows exactly what we are going through on this earth.
 - 3. He will not sit in judgment as some being that has no familiarity with temptation, pain or sickness.
- F. He is qualified because He is impartial.
 - 1. The Lord does not play favorites.
 - 2. Romans 2:11; Ephesians 6:9.
- G. Our Savior cannot be deceived.
 - 1. He knows His word better than anyone.
 - 2. He knows our hearts.
 - a. We can deceive others or even deceive ourselves.
 - b. We cannot deceive the Lord.
 - 3. Sometimes we sing the song that says, "There is an all-seeing Eye watching you."
- H. Jesus cannot be bribed.
 - 1. We can give Him nothing to increase His wealth (Psalm 50:10).
 - 2. Bribery is beneath our Lord.
 - a. His character is such as not to allow that to even be a consideration.
 - b. Jesus knew about bribery of judges because history tells us it was rampant while He was on earth.
 - c. We have nothing to give Him and He would have nothing to

do with it

- I. He is a Judge of mercy, love, wisdom and power.
- J. He will do right (Genesis 18:25).

II. The ones He will judge.

- A. Before judges in the US, criminals stand as well as those who have legal disputes with others.
 - 1. Many people have stood before a judge.
 - 2. Some innocent of any crime, some guilty of such.
 - 3. Most of us will never stand before a judge in this lifetime as a defendant.
- B. The fact is, all will stand before the judgment bar of Jesus.
- C. The reason for this is that all have sinned (Romans 3:23).
- D. Because of that fact, all will be judged.
 - 1. Romans 14:10-12.
 - 2. John 5:28-29.
 - 3. 2 Timothy 4:1.
- E. There have been those who have said they won't appear before the judgment bar.
 - 1. Some have based this off of Romans 8:1.
 - 2. This verse doesn't say we won't stand before the Lord, it tells us that when we do, we won't be condemned if we are in Christ.
- F. I don't know how judgment will work for those who died before reaching the state of accountability.
 - 1. I know they have no sin so there is nothing to judge.
 - 2. I don't know if they will stand before the Lord or not.
- G. For everyone that has reached that state of accountability, everyone will stand before that throne.
 - 1. Matthew 24:32; Revelation 20:12; Ecclesiastes 3:17.
 - 2. The living and the dead will be there (2 Timothy 4:1).
 - 3. No one is going to miss out on the judgment.

III. We will be judged according to a standard.

- A. Since the Lord is impartial, there must be and is a standard for our judgment: the New Testament.
- B. Our text tells us that we are going to be judged in righteousness (Acts 17:31).
 - 1. This is another way of saying we will be judged by the word of God.
 - 2. Psalm 119:172.
- C. We will be judged by the gospel (Romans 2:16).
- D. We will be judged by the words of Jesus (John 12:48).
- E. We are going to be judged on what we have done in this life (Revelation

- 20:12).
- F. We will be judged based on things we did or did not do (Matthew 25:31).
 - G. We will be judged based on our words (Matthew 12:36-37).
 - H. We will be judged based on our thoughts (Ecclesiastes 12:14; 1 Corinthians 4:5).

IV. The judgment issued.

- A. There are only two options for His sentencing: a sheep or a goat (Matthew 25:31).
 - 1. There are no other options.
 - 2. There is either heaven or hell.
- B. John 5:28-29.
 - 1. We will be found righteous or a sinner.
 - 2. There is no middle ground on that day.
- C. It will be impossible to be found not good enough for heaven but not bad enough for hell.
- D. It all going to be based on how we lived our lives.
- E. All spiritual blessings are found in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).
 - 1. Included in those blessings is the blessing of forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 1:7).
 - 2. We get into Christ by being baptized into Him (Galatians 3:26-27).
 - 3. This is where our sins are washed away (Acts 22:16).
 - 4. We must stay in contact with the blood of Christ so that the sins we commit after baptism can still be forgiven (1 John 1:7).
- F. It is in this life that we must bow our knees in submission to Jesus and confess His name with our mouths.
- G. All are going to do that one day (Romans 14:11).
- H. We must make sure we have done it in this life, because it will be too late in the next.