



In Favor of the Saints

Innate in the heart of fallen sinful human is a fear of God. We seem to have an innate understanding that we are sinful and that we will someday have to face judgment by a righteous God. We deal with that fear in many different ways. Some try to amass enough good works to make it through the judgment and convince God to let them into Heaven. Others form a god of their own imagination that will never judge. Some fill their lives with so many distractions that they have no time to think about the more sober things of life like judgment. Still others use evolution as a method of ridding themselves of God entirely; if there is no creator God then there's no one to answer to. But I want to propose to you that the judgment is not something you need to be afraid of. In fact it's something you should look forward to.

This may surprise you. Maybe you've had some saint intimidate you into good behavior wagging their finger in your face and quoting texts like **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**. The Devil must rejoice when texts like these have been misused to portray the judgment as a fearful investigation in which God seeks to find fault with people so that He can condemn them.

Daniel 7:22—But that's not the picture of judgment that the Bible portrays. Judgment is given in favor of the saints. Throughout the Bible you will find God's people looking forward to and desiring judgment. The Bible writers seemed to think that judgment was a good thing, they longed for it! Judgment is a positive thing for God's people.

Daniel 7:9-10—Let's take a look at Daniel's awesome judgment scene. In this vision God is showing Daniel a prophetic picture of the nations and powers that will hold sway over God's people. He portrays earthly powers vying with each other and ultimately with God for control. He shows God's people persecuted and trodden down. But throughout the vision God's answer, the hope of the saints, is the judgment!

2 Chronicles 19:7—The books are publically examined. In a sense God is also on trial. The on looking universe is allowed to look at the evidence (the books) to see if God is just and fair in his judgment. This judgment leaves no question that God is fair and just. Human courts are not always fair. Sometimes they're corrupt other times they just do not have full knowledge of the case. But with God as the judge it is impossible to have an unfair verdict. Remember God is on your side (Dan 7:22)!

Daniel 7:13-14—Into this amazing courtroom enters Jesus, in human form. Divine from eternity, Jesus took upon Himself humanity and it is in this post-incarnate form that Jesus enters the courtroom. Jesus' answer to the sin and suffering of this world is judgment.

John 12:31-32—In fact the cross was an act of judgment! At the cross Jesus condemned the devil and defeated Him. Some say "Don't speak of judgment just glory in the cross." But if you glory in the cross you glory in judgment! And if you lift up Christ and His act of judgment you will draw people to Him.

Daniel 7:21-22—Daniel was confused about the vision so he sought interpretation from a nearby angel. As he described what he had seen again the attention is drawn from the evil of the little horn and its persecution of the saints to judgment as God's answer.

Daniel 7:26-27—Once more judgment is intervening on behalf of the saints to save them.

Micah 7:8-9—Perhaps you say, "The judgment may be good news for the saints, the 'perfect people' but I'm a sinner." But notice that judgment is God's answer to the personal guilt of sin. In judgment God brings you out of your sin darkened dungeon and frees you from condemnation through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

Ephesians 2:8, 9—Our salvation comes not because we're good enough, but because Jesus is. The only thing we can do to achieve enough righteousness to be able to stand in the judgment is to accept Jesus' righteousness in our place.

Ephesians 2:10—You may have heard it said that we're saved by grace but judged by works. That's true but it is God who prepares those works for us. We need only follow His lead. "For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Phil 2:13). I'm glad I'm not going to be judged by my own works but by God's works!

The question comes down to how we used our free will. 1) for sin, 2) for self righteousness. 3) for surrender to God's grace.

Revelation 14:6-7—That is why God's last day message of the everlasting Gospel includes judgment. In fact judgment is the reason given why people should respect, glorify and worship God!

Hebrews 4:14-16—When we understand that judgment is given in favor of the saints; we need not fear the judgment. The throne of God should be a place of safety. We can come boldly to the judge. There we will find mercy, grace and help in time of need!

We sit in a condemned world. Satan the accuser (Revelation 12:10), accuses us day and night. Of course we are not innocent, but Jesus has paid our penalty. Now we look forward to the judgment when the record will be cleared, all those sins that Satan led us into then accuses us of will be wiped away by the blood of the Jesus and the guilt will be placed on Satan where it belongs.

Have you been hurt by those who should have represented God to you? Have you felt the finger of unrighteous condemnation as people pass judgment on your actions without proper knowledge? Then the judgment should be good news for you.

Do you feel guilt from past confessed sins? Does the devil keep haunting you with the sins of the past? Then the judgment is Good news for you.

Do you know someone who is hurting because of the results of sin or mistreatment by sinners? Then point them to the judgment and the Judge who will make all things right.

Have you given your life to Jesus and accepted His salvation so that you too can look forward to the vindication of the judgment? If not I invite you to pray this prayer.

*"Heavenly Father I accept Jesus as my personal Savior.
I accept you dear God as my Daddy in Heaven.
I give you my hopes dreams and desires.
I give you the good, the bad, and the ugly in my life.
I am guilty Lord. I give you my guilt right now. Thank you for taking it.
I confess that I am a sinner. Please forgive me.
I surrender my will to You.
I ask that You fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I ask that Your Spirit direct my will.
Thank you for giving me eternal life right now.
In the lovely name of Jesus, Amen."*

