

The Priority of Judgement and the Practice  
of Righteousness As A Christian  
(1 Peter 4:17-19)

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- A. Judgement starts with God's church. This means that God is in the process of purging the church, which includes all that it takes (i.e. trials, tribulations, troubles, etc.) to cleanse us of all of our sins and make us what we were saved to become. This is the difficulty the believer is to face.
- B. "If even those who are going to be saved are purified and judged by suffering, then the 'outcome' (*telos*) or result of those who reject the gospel will surely be a greater punishment."<sup>1</sup>
- C. "If the godly are saved through the purification of suffering, then the judgment of the 'ungodly and sinner' must be horrific indeed."<sup>2</sup>
- D. "Believers could be sure that they were being called on to suffer according to God's will (cf. 2:15; 3:17; 4:2) if, having committed no crimes, they were suffering solely because they bore Christ's name. Peter encouraged suffering saints to endure through the exercise of Christlike faith. Just as Christ trusted Himself to His Father who judges justly (2:23), so should believers commit (*paratithēstōsan*, an accounting term, 'to deposit or entrust') themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good (cf. 2:15, 20)."<sup>3</sup>

**Key Concepts to Consider**

1. Suffering is inevitable; lasting benefits only come from suffering according to God's will, not when suffering because of sin.
2. Where there is shame for suffering for Christ, there is a fear of man above the fear of God; we must repent of this immediately.
3. We must carry the name of Christ boldly when times are good and when times are bad.
4. Not everyone will accept you if you carry the name Christ in doing what is right in order that the world may see His character in you.
5. Do not live to be liked by others; live entrusting yourself to God in doing what is right, and thereby accept all that comes with that choice.

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas R. Schreiner, "1, 2 Peter, Jude," *The New American Commentary, Vol. 37* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), p. 228.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas R. Schreiner, "1, 2 Peter, Jude," *The New American Commentary, Vol. 37* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003), p. 229.

<sup>3</sup> Roger M. Raymer, "1 Peter," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), p. 855.

Present Judgment	Bema Judgment	Second Coming Judgment	White Throne Judgment
<p><b>Condemnation Judgement</b> – individuals criticizing/putting people down who are practicing the very things they are doing; they can anticipate receiving the same negative judgment they are giving out. (Matthew 7:1-5, Romans 2:1, 2 Samuel 12:1-20)</p> <p><b>Confidential Judgement</b> – Believers taking time to examine themselves to see where they need to confess, repent, and replace sin with righteousness. (1 Corinthians 11:27-31)</p> <p><b>Compassionate Judgement</b> – believers carefully confronting other believers who are in sin for the sake of leading them to repentance and restoration of fellowship with God and other believers. (1 Corinthians 5:1-13, Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1, Luke 17:3-4)</p> <p><b>Clean up Judgment</b> – God taking the Church through various trials, tribulations, troubles, etc. in order to cleanse His people of sin. (1 Corinthians 11:32, Hebrews 12:5-11, 1 Peter 4:17)</p>	<p>New Testament saints will be evaluated according to their life on earth to determine gain or loss of rewards accordingly. (1 Cor. 3:10-15, 1 Cor. 4:1-5, 2 Cor. 5:6-10)</p>	<p>When Jesus Christ comes to set up His Kingdom on Earth for 1000 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Old Testament saints will rise, be judged and be with Jesus. (Daniel 12:1-3, Malachi 3:16-18)</li> <li>• The saints who died in the seven years of tribulation will rise, be judged and be with Jesus. (Revelation 20:4)</li> <li>• Saints who survived the seven years of tribulation on earth will be judged and dwell with Jesus during this 1000 years. (Matthew 25:31-40)</li> <li>• The unbelievers who are still alive at His coming to set up His Kingdom will be judged and sent away for the White Throne Judgement of unbelievers. (Matthew 25: 41-46, Revelation 20:11-15)</li> </ul>	<p>After the 1000 year reign of Jesus on earth, there will be a judgment of all unbelievers who will be thrown into the eternal lake of fire and burn there forever. (Revelation 20:5, 11-15)</p>