

April 12/13, 2008

Study Questions
Life after Death Series
What about Final Judgment and Punishment?
Revelation 20:11-15
Pastor Mark Kremer

Opening Discussion

1. How would most people in our culture define justice? Where does their sense of right and wrong come from? Who do people trust to execute justice and judgment?
2. When people are wronged or hurt by someone there is a cry for justice and often a cry for vengeance. Where does that come from? Why do we want other people held accountable for their wrong-doing, but insist on our own innocence?
3. What are the most common beliefs today regarding final judgment and eternal punishment? Where do these beliefs come from?
4. Do you think most people are aware of what the Bible teaches about eternal life and eternal punishment? What are some common misunderstandings about what the Bible says about these things?

Bible Study

1. Discuss the difference between the first coming of Christ and the description of His coming in glory to reign and judge all mankind in Revelation 20:11, 12. (Matt 25:31, 32)
2. Why does Jesus have the right and authority to examine the life of every person who has ever lived? Where did this authority come from? (John 5:19-30)
3. Verse 11 states that from Christ's presence "earth and heaven fled away and no place was found for them". What is the meaning of this phrase and what are its implications for all mankind?
4. Who is standing before the throne on the day of judgment (vs. 12)? What is being communicated to us in this verse?
5. What do the "books" which are opened contain? What other book is also opened and what does it contain? (Verse 12)
6. Will the judgment rendered by Christ be equitable and fair? On what basis can we be sure that it will be?

7. Does every person have enough of a knowledge of what is right and wrong that they can be justly held accountable for all of their actions? (See Romans 1:18 – 2:16; 3:10-20)
8. Will anyone be excluded from this final judgment according to verses 12 and 13?
9. What is the significance of death and Hades being thrown into the “lake of fire”? (vs. 14)
10. For whom was the lake of fire intended? (Revelation 20:10; Matt. 25:41)
11. What will the lake of fire be like? What other descriptions of eternal punishment are used in the scriptures? (Matt 22:13; 25:30; Hebrews 10:27)
12. According to verse 15, what will happen to those whose names are not written in the Book of Life?
13. How does that contrast with the destiny of those whose names are written in the Book of Life? What will eternity hold for them?
14. On what basis is your name either recorded in the Book of Life or excluded from the Book of Life?

Application

1. Why is believing in Jesus and His finished work on the cross as the only way to eternal life difficult for so many people to accept?
2. How did I come to a point of decision regarding Christ?
3. Does it matter to me that people without Christ are destined for such an awful end?
4. How should the certainty of eternal separation from God and punishment for the unbelieving effect the way we as followers of Jesus live each day?
5. What is the Holy Spirit calling me to do to proclaim hope and life to those who are currently destined for wrath? How will I obey that calling this week? How can we together keep this rescue mission front and center in our daily living?