

ROMANS

CRITICAL GRACE THEORY

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Week 4 – First, the Bad News...

Introduction:

The Reality of Future Judgment...

1. God's judgment is _____ (vs. 1-4)
2. God's judgment is _____ (vs. 5-11)
3. God's judgment is _____ (vs. 12-16)

Five Major Judgments in the Bible:

1. The judgment of _____ and his demons (Ezek. 28; Isa. 14, etc.)
2. The judgment of Adam and Eve in the _____ (Gen. 3)
3. The judgment of Jesus Christ on our _____
(2 Cor. 5:17-20)
4. The judgment _____ (Bema) of Christ
(Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:10)
5. The judgment of the Great White _____
(Rev. 20:11-15)

The Big Idea:

According to Scripture, all humans enter this world equally desperate for salvation, and judgment is the fate of all who reject Christ. Will you receive His grace today?

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. In the weekend message, we learned that Romans 2:1-16 affirms that everyone deserves God's judgment, no matter how "big" or "little" we think our sins are. How would you answer a person who says that this doesn't seem fair?

Ponderings:

2. Romans 2:4 says that God's kindness leads people to repentance. Why is this so critical for us to understand in relation to the way we share our faith with others?
3. The implication of Romans 2:1-4 is that our ability to judge others is skewed by personal bias, whereas God's judgment is based on objectivity. Why is God's objectivity, fairness and omniscience so central to understanding future judgment?
4. In chapters 1-2, Paul is backing both Jews and Gentiles into a desperate corner as being equally under judgment. This, we will discover, is the way he sets his audience up to acknowledge more fully their desperate need for the finished work of Christ. What, in your opinion, does a person need to know and embrace in order to become a born-again child of God?
5. Why is it important to read Paul's words in Romans 2:5-11 in the context of where his statements lead in Romans 3:10 and following?
6. Of the five major judgments mentioned toward the end of the weekend message, which one is the most difficult for you to wrap your mind around and why?
 - The judgment of Satan and his demons
 - The judgment of Adam and Eve
 - The judgment of Jesus Christ at the cross
 - The judgment seat (Bema) of Christ when believers are rewarded
 - The judgment at the Great White Throne (the final judgment)

Promptings:

7. While we may never get answers to every possible question about God's judgment, we know from Scripture and experience that God is *perfect, trustworthy, fair, just, merciful and gracious*. Unlike God, we as humans cannot be all of those things. That being said, which of them can we be as God enables us?