

We Can Know the Truth about the Judgment  
(John 8:31-32)

Introduction:

1. In these verses Jesus stated that His disciples can know something very special -- "the truth."
2. Jesus also revealed the key to knowing the truth -- "continuing in His word."
3. Knowing the truth is essential because it provides a special blessing -- it makes us free.
4. In our lesson we are searching the Lord's word so "we can know the truth about the judgment."
5. Let us begin with a fundamental point.

Discussion:

- I. THE LORD'S WORD TEACHES THAT JUDGMENT WILL OCCUR
  - A. Before Jesus came in the flesh, Solomon showed in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 that judgment will occur.
  - B. Jesus often mentioned the judgment (Matthew 10:14-15; 11:20-24; 12:36).
  - C. Additional passages: Acts 17:30-31; Hebrews 9:27.
- II. THE LORD'S WORD EMPHASIZES BEING READY FOR JUDGMENT
  - A. According to 2 Corinthians 5:10, everyone will face the Lord in judgment.
  - B. During His ministry Jesus stated that:
    1. He is the judge (John 5:22)
    2. His Word is the standard by which we will be judged (John 12:48).
  - C. At the judgment there will be a separation (Matthew 25:31-33).
  - D. To those:
    1. who are prepared, judgment will be a time for rejoicing
    2. who are unprepared, judgment will be a time of great sadness.
  - E. When Jesus returns, it will be too late to get ready -- the time to prepare is now.
  - F. Jesus wants us to get ready and stay ready (Matthew 24:42, 44; 25:13).
- III. THE LORD'S WORD ADDRESSES SPECIFIC MATTERS THAT RELATE TO BEING READY FOR THE JUDGMENT
  - A. First, we will be judged on whether we are members of His church.
    1. We learn from Acts 2:47 that Christ adds those who are saved to His church.
    2. We learn from 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 that those who do not obey the Gospel will "be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord."
    3. We learn from Revelation 2:10 that the faithful will receive "a crown of life."
  - B. Each person will be judged by:
    1. his judgment of others (Matthew 7:1-2; John 7:24)
    2. his words (Matthew 12:35-37; Colossians 4:6)
    3. his works (Matthew 16:27; 1 Corinthians 15:58)
    4. his assistance of the needy (Matthew 25:31-46; Galatians 6:10)
    5. what is written in the books (Revelation 20:12).

Conclusion:

1. These matters are extremely important.
2. The way we approach them will affect our standing at the judgment.
3. Are you prepared to face Jesus in judgment? (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)