

WISDOM IN THE WASTELAND

8.12.18 • CRAIG REES • WAITING WISELY WHEN JUDGMENT COMES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your major takeaway from the message this morning?
2. Judgment is typically immediate when we disobey physical laws. If we cut ourselves, blood flows. When dealing with *spiritual laws*, judgment may be delayed. Read **2 Peter 3:9**. How has God demonstrated His patience with you in postponing judgement?
3. Remembering that the doctrine of *grace* trumps the doctrine of *rewards*, read through **2 Corinthians 3:10-15** and personalize it. How should Paul's words motivate our service today? What makes our "works" able to survive the quality test?
4. **2 Corinthians 5:10** implies that the Christians' judgment is when all Christians are judged by their works. This judgment does not refer to our eternal salvation but our rewards (crowns). How much of a motivation is the doctrine of rewards for you? What's the significance of the rewards?
5. The idea of God relenting addresses the issue of God's immutability—whether He ever changes and knows real emotions. There are several reasons why God is immutable, not just that He is omniscient (all-knowing). Reading **Numbers 23:19** alongside **Joel 2:13 -14**, what conclusions do you draw? How do we give God's immutability and Scriptures like this equal weight?
6. God says that He will restore the years the locusts have eaten. Since judgment evokes thankfulness, recall a time when God's restoring work was evident in your life. Write a prayer of thanks to God and commit to share the story with at least one other person this week.
7. The last judgment is a judgment that vindicates God's name, Jesus Christ, and the Christian. At His first coming Jesus was ridiculed externally but vindicated internally. At the final judgement He will be openly vindicated to all. This experience is often the Christian's experience too. Have you ever been judged by others for an act—whether in word or deed—that was right in God's eyes? How difficult was this for you? What difference could this aspect of judgment make to our lives today?
8. When we think of judgment, we have to think of the time of separating believers from unbelievers. Remembering **Revelation 21:4**, how will we be happy in heaven in that moment? What difference should this coming reality make for our lives right now.

BOTTOM LINE

The doctrine of judgment should make us both mindful and thankful.

KEY VERSES

Joel 2

John 12:48

1 Cor. 3:10-15

2 Cor. 5:10

2 Peter 3:9

Revelation 1:7

Revelation 21:4