

BELIEVERS SHOULDN'T OVERLOOK THE JUDGMENT OF GOD

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1.2.25

A big problem in the world today — even in many churches — is that so few people have any fear of God!

Of course ... many don't believe in a God at all. Yet **many who claim to believe in God — don't fear Him.**

In many cases ... they've only ever heard of a God who loves everybody — always! A God who loves UNCONDITIONALLY! Doesn't matter what you do. God is a nice ... friendly ... Being.

Many churches ... TV evangelists ... **refuse to preach about sin ... repentance ... judgment.** They “don't want to offend” — especially their donors!

So — they focus on God's love. “God is Love”. **Wall to wall — “GOD IS LOVE”.** “God so loved the world John 3:16”.

But **this picture of God is unbalanced — and inaccurate.** And potentially harmful!

A God who loves everybody ... always no matter what ... endlessly kind ... inoffensive — **isn't likely to be a God that people fear!** He's just kindness all the time.

There are over a hundred places in the Bible which mention the FEAR OF GOD. There are very few scriptures which mention His love. Many books which are completely silent. **About 1 verse in every 1,000.**

Romans 11:19-23

19 You will say then, **“Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.”**

20 Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. **Do not be haughty, but fear.**

21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. *(It's not once saved — always saved)*

22 Therefore **consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness.** *(Not just unconditional love)*

Otherwise you also will be cut off.

23 And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. *(depends on you)*

Consider the goodness and severity of God!

Paul preached both. **How often today is the severity of God preached?**

2 Corinthians 5:9-11

9 Therefore **we make it our aim**, whether present or absent, **to be well pleasing to Him.**

10 **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.**

11 Knowing, therefore, **the terror of the Lord** *(normal translation here is “fear”)*, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

All will appear before the judgment seat (Greek: BEMA). **CLEARLY TO BE JUDGED!!**

Matthew 10:24-28

24 **“A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master.**

25 It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. **If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household!**

26 Therefore **do not fear them.** For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

27 “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.

28 And **do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

Fear God! He can kill the body and soul — your whole life — in hell-fire — your future life terminated. It is unfortunate that today the message is so hopelessly unbalanced. Be in awe of God.

It's all "Love ... Love ... Love" ... **people are rarely challenged to examine their lives and make changes!**

Fairly soon we will hear a few "Easter Messages". Mostly very bland. Jesus' Resurrection teaches us how "light triumphs over darkness" — how "God's Love" in people can bring peace to the world. All semi-political messages.

Lots of preachers and churches refuse to preach anything about SIN AND JUDGMENT!

Today — **I'm going to review and contrast what the Bible actually says about the Love of God and Fear of God.**

When preaching to "The World" ... should the focus be on HOW MUCH GOD LOVES THEM?

Is it true that God's goodness and love lead to repentance? If so — should we avoid preaching sin and judgment?

Romans 2:4

4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, **not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?**

God's goodness leads to repentance? So that's where they stop.

But hold on! Let's look at the context!

Romans 2:1-3

1 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

2 But we know that **the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.**

3 And do you think this, O man, **you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?**

The “Judgment of God” is against persons who don’t practice good things. Mentioned here twice.

Romans 2:4-10

4 Or **do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering**, not knowing that **the goodness of God leads you to repentance?**

5 But **in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,**

6 who **“will render to each one according to his deeds”:**

7 **eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;**

8 but **to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation/fury and wrath,**

9 **tribulation and anguish**, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;

10 but **glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

The Judgment of God ... and wrath ... and indignation ... and anguish!!! And — hell-fire!

Paul’s warning is of judgment and destruction. **God is patient. He gives opportunity to repent and change — or else!!**

Some people try to relegate “Fear of God” to the Old Testament — the “Harsh God”.

In the New Testament — it’s “gentle Jesus ... meek and mild”.

Yet Jesus spoke often about punishment and/or Hell-Fire. Jesus spoke more about Hell-Fire than anyone else!

AND YOU NEED TO FEAR GOD!

Matthew 5:20-22

20 For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, **You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.**’

22 **But I say to you** that **whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment**. And whoever says to his brother, Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ **shall be in danger of hell fire**.

Matthew 13:39-42

39 The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels.

40 **Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age.**

41 **The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,**

42 **and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.** (*I thought God’s love was unconditional??*)

Furnace of fire ... wailing (lamenting) **and gnashing of teeth** (these people are angry with God). **This is JESUS TALKING!!**

Matthew 13:49-52

49 So it will be at the end of the age. **The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just,**
50 **and cast them into the furnace of fire.** There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

Whoever the wicked are — they will be burned up in the furnace of fire. Burned up and annihilated.

Jesus spoke of Goodness and Severity (those who refuse to humble themselves — who will gnash their teeth in anger at God)!

There is severe judgment!

No one has to go into hell-fire. **Everyone has the opportunity to repent. HEED THE WARNING!**

Matthew 18:7-9

7 Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!

8 **“If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire.**

9 And **if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire.**

These are the words of Jesus. A WARNING! Take drastic action to change your life — and get rid of whatever is causing you to sin. Otherwise —Everlasting fire. Hell-fire.

This is Jesus preaching. **Not “God loves you just as you are — unconditionally”.** Rather — **“sort yourself out — or hell-fire”!**

Matthew 22:1-3

1 And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said:

2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,
3 **and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come.**

Wedding supper.

Matthew 22:10-14

10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 “But **when the king came in to see** *(to look intently upon — examining)* **the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment.** *(“Who had not PUT ON a wedding garment”. He couldn’t explain why he hadn’t put on the garment he had been given)*

12 So he said to him, ‘**Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?**’ And he was speechless.

13 Then the king said to the servants, ‘**Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**’ *(There is severity in God’s plan!)*

14 “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Cast into outer darkness — where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:14-18

14 “**For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country,** who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.

15 And **to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one,** to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

16 Then **he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.**

17 And likewise **he who had received two gained two more also.**

18 But **he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money.**

Traded their talents.

Matthew 25:24-30

24 “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘**Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.**’
(Quite rude to say that to your boss — you exploit people — you are unjust)

25 **And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground.** Look, there you have what is yours.’

26 “But **his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant,** you knew (*did you?*) that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. (*Is that the case?*)

27 So **you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.** (*That’s the least you could have done*)

28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

29 For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

30 And **cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness.** There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**The unprofitable servant was cast into the outer darkness.
ANOTHER WARNING!!**

Jesus makes it fairly plain. Some people are going to end up in a very bad place.

These are warnings from Jesus — so that we don’t end up there!!

Yet many preachers of “Love and Grace” avoid any reference to the “bad” part!

Matthew 25:31-33

31 “**When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.**

32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

33 And **He will set the sheep on His right hand**, but **the goats on the left**. (*Everybody is not the same! Not the same outcome!*)

Matthew 25:41-42

41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, **Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels**: (*the goats were told to depart — not inclusivity!*)

42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’

The goats on the left hand are going into everlasting fire.

Matthew 25:46

46 And **these will go away into everlasting punishment**, but **the righteous into eternal life**.” (*Everlasting punishment — not everlasting punishing!!*)

Everlasting punishment for the goats. The sheep into eternal life.

Goodness and severity — there is a choice!

Luke 13:22-28

22 And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.

23 Then one said to Him, “**Lord, are there few who are saved?**” (*Interesting question!! Not everyone??*)

And He said to them,

24 “**Strive to enter through the narrow gate**, for **many**, I say to you, **will seek to enter and will not be able**.”

25 When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open for us,’ and He will answer and say to you, I do not know you, where you are from,’

26 then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.'

27 But **He will say**, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. **Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.**' ("**Depart**" — **GO AWAY!**)

28 **There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth**, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out.

Strive — fight ... put some effort into it ... struggle. You can't just cruise along.

QUITE A STRONG WARNING!!

Just being aware of Jesus is not enough! Weeping and gnashing of teeth — people thrust out. They didn't have a relationship with Jesus.

Jesus was the most effective preacher ever? **His message had a "bite" to it. Not just all fluffy "Love" and Grace.** His message was plain.

Matthew 11:20-24

20 Then **He began to rebuke** the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, **because they did not repent:**

21 "**Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida!** ("**WOE**" is a **curse!**) For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

22 But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.

23 **And you, Capernaum**, who are exalted to heaven (*in their own eyes*), **will be brought down to Hades**; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

24 But **I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."**

Jesus rebuked entire towns! He cursed them: “WOE”! BECAUSE THEY DID NOT REPENT!

It will be bad for them in the judgment — AND THERE WILL BE ONE!

It wasn't just the “wicked Pharisees” ... wicked leaders ... that Jesus rebuked — though they certainly deserved their condemnation. The next scripture talks about BELIEVERS!

Revelation 3:14-16

14 “And to the angel of **the church of the Laodiceans** write,
These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the
Beginning of the creation of God:

15 “**I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot.** I
could wish you were cold or hot.

16 So then, **because you are lukewarm**, and neither cold nor hot, **I will vomit you out of My mouth.**

Spew you out! Cast you away! You are not one thing or another. You are a disgusting mess. Believers that are not walking with God. Love?

Revelation 3:19

19 As many as I love, **I rebuke and chasten**. Therefore **be zealous and repent**.

“I rebuke and chasten” — in LOVE! REPENT — MAKE CHANGES! Stop sinning!

Revelation 2:1-2

1 “To the angel of **the church of Ephesus** write,
‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who
walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

2 “**I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;**

Revelation 2:4-5

4 **Nevertheless** I have this against you, that **you have left your first love**.

5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent and do the first works**, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—**unless you repent**.

Repent! Or else!

This is Jesus preaching. Not all sentimental “Love” — and carry on just as you are.

THERE’S MORE TO THE GOSPEL THAN JUST UNCONDITIONAL LOVE.

There are severe penalties in the Judgment. There is Hell-fire!

HEED JESUS’ WARNINGS!

Hebrews 12:28-29

28 **Therefore**, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, **let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear**.

29 **For our God is a consuming fire**.

OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE.

Unfortunately ... the bland ... inoffensive ... politically-correct preaching of many churches and tv evangelists will not produce THE FEAR OF GOD in most people.

In the absence of an effective warning — they’ll stay on the wide path that will lead to their destruction. That’s where most people are going.

Let’s make sure we are well clear of that path.

