

Friday

Please read Psalm 73:1-16. Do you relate to what the psalmist is saying? Why do you think it's best to leave ultimate justice in God's hands? As you think back over the week, how does what you've learned motivate you to reach out to those who do not know Jesus Christ? How will you act on what you have learned? Finish reading Psalm 73—read verses 17-28.

Thank God today for his final justice. Ask him to give you patience and confidence in his timing and his ways. Pray that you will have greater motivation to reach out to others. Pray that your life will be an example of totally trusting God.

Saturday

Please read Matthew 6:19-34 to be ready for tomorrow's message.

Ask God to prepare your heart so that you can worship him in Spirit and truth as you come together with your brothers and sisters tomorrow. Pray for both of our Sunday services, that they will clearly show God's grace and truth to all who attend.

Resources

The following books are recommended for further study:

Randy Alcorn, *Heaven* (comprehensive look at what the Bible teaches about heaven and answers to many FAQ)

Billy Graham, *Facing Death and the Life After* (practical focus on handling grief)

David Jeremiah, *Revealing the Mysteries of Heaven*

Gary Habermas and J.P. Moreland, *Immortality: The Other Side of Death* (builds the scientific case for the afterlife)

Steven Lawson, *Heaven Help Us!* (Revelation's descriptions of heaven)

Erwin Lutzer, *One Minute After You Die*

Joseph M. Stowell, *Eternity: Reclaiming a Passion for What Endures*

Joni Eareckson Tada, *Heaven*

Heaven Is Real

Message by Rick McRostie on Sunday, June 18, 2017

The Last Day of Evil

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Revelation 21:4

The Bible teaches God _____ evil before it can _____

"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns." Revelation 19:11-12

"And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Revelation 20:10

Jesus said: *"A time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned." John 5:28*

Jesus said: *"This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous." Matthew 13:49*

Common Questions About God's Final Judgment

Why would a loving God want to send people to hell?

*"God did **not** send his Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the **world** might be saved through him." John 3:17*

*"The Lord is **not** willing that **any** should perish but that **all** should come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9*

*"...God our Savior desires **everyone** to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:4*

If God doesn't want anyone to go to hell, why do people end up there?

Because God takes _____ very seriously.

"This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil." John 3:19



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Why does there have to be a final judgment?

- Without it there would be no real _____
- Without it there would be no real _____
- Without it there would be no real _____

Is this really fair to everyone?

“For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” Romans 1:20

Isn't God supposed to be forgiving?

“Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.” Isaiah 55:7

Will I like heaven if I see people there who've made my life hell?

“The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.” Isaiah 11:6

How do I respond to this?

1. Receive _____

“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.” John 5:22-24

2. Release _____

“Do not repay anyone evil for evil... as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.” Romans 12:17-19

“Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example... When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.” 1 Peter 2:21 & 23

3. Rest in _____

“... I envied ...when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. ...Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence. When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me—till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.” Psalm 73:2-6, 16

4. Reach out in _____

“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Matthew 16:18

Daily Meditations

Daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on today's topic.

This week's memory verse:

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” John 3:17

Monday

Please read John 5:27-29 and Revelation 19:11-12. What stands out to you in these verses? How did what you learned yesterday help you understand these passages? Why do you think God does not allow evil in heaven? How does that make you feel? What do these passages tell you about God's judgment of evil? What are your thoughts about that?

Thank God today for his sovereignty and control. Ask him to help your understanding and faith grow as you study God's justice and mercy this week.

Tuesday

Please read John 3:16-21, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, and 2 Peter 3:8-10. These verses are some of the most remarkable when it comes to balancing God's justice and mercy. Write down your definition of justice. How do you see God's justice in these verses? How do you see God's mercy?

Thank God today that he is perfect in all his ways and his judgment. Talk to him about any struggles you may have when it comes to understanding heaven and hell.

Wednesday

Please read Romans 1:18-20, 2:7-8. Write down two things these verses teach about God's fairness. Do you struggle with God's fairness? If so, how? Do these verses help you? Why or why not? Read Isaiah 11:6 and 55:6-9. What do these passages teach you about God's fairness and mercy? How have you seen the truths of these verses in your life? How does this impact your thoughts towards those you can't imagine sharing heaven with?

Thank God for the many times he has demonstrated his mercy in your life. Talk to him about the people you find it difficult to forgive. Ask him to keep your heart soft and trust his character and his ways.

Thursday

Please read John 5:22-24, Romans 12:17-21, and 1 Peter 1:21-24. Write down three things these verses teach you about responding to God's fairness and mercy.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is one practical thing you can glean from these verses to help change your attitude towards those you find it difficult to forgive? How can this impact your actions?

Thank God for his pardon of your sins—past, present, and future. Thank him for the example he has given you when it comes to responding to those you find hard to love. Ask God to help you rest in his love for you and look to him to give you his love for others.