

Lesson 13 – By What Standard Will We Be Judged?



Introduction: In our last lesson we learned that “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.” In this lesson we will discover the standard by which we are to be judged.



1. Can we earn salvation? Eph. 2:8-10 [The Further-study verses are Rom.6:23; Gal. 2:16; Titus 3:5-8.]

Ephesians 2:8-10

- ⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
- ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast.
- ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Romans 6:23

- ²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



2. What experience must we have to receive this free gift? John 3:3 John 1:12, 13; 1 John 5:4

John 3:3

³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 1:12, 13

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

1 John 5:4

⁴ For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

[Note: While the gift is free and cannot be earned, it is conditional upon our being born again.]



3. To be born again means to receive the gift of Jesus' divine nature (In the Scriptures, this nature is variously called life, power, seed, or spirit.) How can we receive this new nature? 2 Peter 1:3, 4 [Ps. 119:11]

2 Peter 1:3, 4

³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Psalms 119:11

¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.



4. Unless we are “eating” the Word of God, through Bible study and prayer, can we have Jesus’ life (or nature) abiding in us? John 6:53, 63

John 6:53, 63

⁵³ Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

⁶³ It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Matthew 4:4

⁴ But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

[Note: God gives us a new spiritual birth through Christ Jesus, but we must nourish that spiritual life with spiritual food, just as our physical life is kept alive with physical food. Are we as careful about spending time in Bible study and prayer as we are in eating physical food? Matt. 4:4; John 15:4-7]



5. When we are born again, what must happen to the sinful habits in our life?

Rom. 6:4-6 [1 John 3:3-9]

Romans 6:4-6

- ⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
- ⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:
- ⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Answer: Our sinful habits are crucified with Christ in the likeness of His death and we should not serve sin



6. What is sin? 1 John 3:4 [Note: If sin is breaking God's law, and to be born again involves overcoming sin, then the truly born-again person who will pass the judgment must become a law-keeper. Rom. 4:15; 7:7]

1 John 3:4

⁴ Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Romans 8:33, 34

- ¹⁵ Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

Romans 7:7

- ⁷ What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

Ans. The transgression of God's law.



7. How will God know that we have been born again? By what standard will He judge us on the day of judgment? James 2:10-12 [1 John 2:3-6]

James 2:10-12

- ¹⁰ For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.
- ¹¹ For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.
- ¹² So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

1 John 2:3-6

- ³ And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.
- ⁴ He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.
- ⁵ But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.
- ⁶ He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk,
- even as he walked.

Answer: If we are keeping God's Commandments and walking as He walked



8. Since we were born in sin, and love sin, how can we have the new birth experience of victory over sin? Rom. 8:2-6, 13 [Note: We were born with a weak and fallen nature. This is the hereditary “law of sin and death.” But when Jesus became the Son of Man, He conquered sin by combining human nature with His divine nature, thereby “condemning sin in the flesh.” He now offers us His divine nature “that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us” also. We are born again when we by faith surrender the soul to Christ to be filled with His Spirit, and, thus strengthened, begin to live a life of righteousness. John 8:34-36; I John 3:3-9; Titus 2:11-14]

Romans 8:2-6

- ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.
- ³ For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:
- ⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.
- ⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.
- ⁶ For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Answer: We are born again when we by faith surrender the soul to Christ to be filled with His spirit



9. How do we know that Jesus had no advantage over us so that we, too, can live victoriously over sin “just as” Jesus did (1 John 3:3)? Heb. 4:15, 16 [1 Cor. 10:13]

1 John 3:3

- ³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Hebrew 4:15, 16

- ¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.
- ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Answer: He is in touched with the feelings of our infirmities, but was tempted like as we are, yet without sin.



10. How could Jesus have been “tempted as we are”? Heb. 2:11, 14-18 [Ans: Because He was “made like His brethren.” He came with a “heredity” like ours “to share our . . . temptations, and to give us the example of a sinless life.” “As the Son of Man, He gave us an example of obedience; as the Son of God, He gives us power to obey.” “Jesus . . . exercised no powers, that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all His followers may possess.” “In Christ, God has provided means for subduing every sinful trait, and resisting every temptation, however strong.”—The Desire of Ages, pp. 49, 24, 664, 429. Heb. 5:8, 9; Matt. 1:21, 23; Rom. 1:3; Phil. 2:7 cf. Rom. 8:3]

Hebrews 2:14-18

- ¹⁴ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;
- ¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.
- ¹⁶ For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.
- ¹⁷ Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.
- ¹⁸ For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.



11. When Jesus gives us a new beginning (new birth) by imparting to us His Spirit (or nature), what does He write on our hearts? Heb. 8:10 [Phil. 2:5; Rev. 14:1]

Hebrews 8:10

- ¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:.

Phillipians 2:5

- ⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Answer: I will put my laws into their mind and write them in their hearts.



12. What motive should prompt us to keep God's law? John 14:15 [2 Cor. 5:14; John 15:10; 2 Thess. 2:8-12 (especially note verse 10)]

John 14:15

- ¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 15:10

¹⁰ If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love..

[Answer: Our love for Him, as a result, we will keep God's law.]



13. Are God's commandments burdensome to those who are truly born again? 1 John 5:3, 4 [Ps. 119:47, 77, 97, 174]

1 John 5:3, 4

- ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.
- ⁴ For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Psalms 119:47, 77, 97, 174

- ⁴⁷ And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.
- ⁷⁷ Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.
- ⁹⁷ O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.
- ¹⁷⁴ I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight.

Answer: No! For if we are born of God, we can overcome the world, the flesh and the Devil.



14. Why will many who think they are born again be disappointed on the day of judgment? Matt. 7:21-23

Matthew 7:21-23

- ²¹ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
- ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?
- ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.
- **[Note: The Greek literally reads: “Depart . . . you who work LAWLESSNESS”.
1 John 2:3-6, 28]**



15. How does the Bible summarize the answer to our question, “By what standard will we be judged on the day of judgment”? Eccl. 12:13, 14 [Rom. 2:13; James 1:25]

Eccl. 12:13, 14

- ¹³ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.
- ¹⁴ For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

Romans 2:13

¹³ (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.)

Answer: Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.



16. Who will be admitted into heaven? Rev. 22:14 [Rev. 14:12]

Revelation 22:14

¹⁴ Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Revelation 14:12

¹² Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.



- **Commitment:** Our salvation cost Jesus His life, but He offers salvation to us free if we will but surrender our sinful natures to Him, who has promised to “take away our sins” (1 John 3:5) and to write His law on our hearts. Thus it is that we will be judged according to God’s law, for our works show whether we have been born again (1 John 2:29). “Let no one deceive you” on this point (1 John 3:6, 7)! The new birth involves a total, growing change of character, habits, and thinking (2 Cor. 5:17). Do you want Jesus to give you this new-birth experience, beginning today?

