

Growth Group Questions

26th Sunday after Pentecost ~ November 17, 2024

Introduction

For a few years our churches gave this Sunday a name: Last Judgment Sunday. How does the thought of Judgment Day make you feel? If you're totally comfortable, what danger might you be in? If you're even a little anxious, what danger might you be in?

(**After you've discussed**, consider that God's Law should always make us uncomfortable in sin but the Gospel can always take away anxiety in Christ.)

Into the Word – Daniel 12:1-3

1. Is Michael a leader of angels or Jesus himself? Consider:
 - Here he is called "the great prince who protects your people" and in Joshua 5 Jesus calls himself "captain of the hosts of the Lord."
 - The term "archangel" is only used of him in Jude 9BUT...
 - In Jude 9, Michael won't condemn Satan himself but instead says, "The Lord rebuke you!"
 - In Daniel 10:13 Michael is called ONE of the chief princes.
2. When was your name written into the book of life?
 - Revelation 13:8 (EHV) *All those who make their home on the earth will worship the beast—those whose names have not been written from the beginning of the world in the Book of Life, which belongs to the Lamb that was slain.*
3. According to verse 2, who will be raised? How does that counter the false teaching of a rapture of believers and literal millennial reign on earth by Jesus?

4. Does verse three teach us that there are "degrees of glory" in heaven? Even if there are, how will our thoughts on those degrees be different there than they are on earth?

Into the Word – Hebrews 9:24-28

5. The theme of the book of Hebrews is "Christ is better." How is he better than the Old Testament High Priests according to these verses (and others)?
6. If verse 26 is correct in saying that Jesus' sacrifice is the "culmination of the ages" what time are we living in now?
7. When will most people face judgment before God? (verse 27)

Into the Word – John 5:25-29

8. In what two ways was verse 25 coming true at the time of Jesus? Two hints:
 - John 11 and a man named Lazarus
 - Ephesians 2 and those who were formerly "dead" in sin
9. Who will be our judge on the Last Day (and at our deaths)? Why is that comforting?
10. Who does Jesus himself say will rise on the Last Day?

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank you for your sacrifice that frees me from fear of death and judgment. Send your Spirit that I might always live in the peace of knowing I am judged NOT GUILTY in Jesus. Amen.