

**I. Read II Corinthians 5:10**

A. In verse 10, the Apostle Paul clearly states that men will stand before the judgment seat of Christ. To which men does he refer?  
**"...we must *all* appear before the judgment seat of Christ..."**

B. By what standard will men be judged? (read Rom. 2:12; Luke 12:47, 48)  
**According to the amount of *light* (knowledge) they have received and by what they have done with that *light* (knowledge).**

C. Men will be separated into two categories at the judgment seat of Christ. What are they? (read Matthew 25:31-33)  
**Those who have trusted in Christ (the sheep) will be placed on His right; those who have not trusted Christ's gospel (the goats) will be placed on His left.**

D. Will the lost be judged *only* for their rejection of or failure to trust in Christ and His gospel? (read Hosea 6:7)  
**No, they will be judged for each violation of the law of God, including the guilt of Adam's first transgression. Those who have rejected Christ will be judged for that great sin as well. But understand, a man's true moral guilt is not determined by whether or not he has heard the gospel, but because of *original sin* and his subsequent violations of the law.**

What are the implications of this for the lost?

**They carry a truly overwhelming load of real moral guilt (not necessarily guilt feelings) into eternity.**

E. According to Scripture, is there hope of salvation in any other than Christ? (read John 3:16; Acts 4:12; I Corinthians 3:11)  
**No!**

Is this fair to those who have not heard the gospel?

***Fair* is a slippery concept. Whether or not it is fair, it is certainly *just* because men are judged for their breaking of God's law, which Paul said (in Romans 2:14-15) that all men know instinctively. The fact that our very concept of justice comes from God makes it ironic that we would question His justice. In other words, we would have no sense of justice apart from God in the first place. It would be *just* if all men perished in hell for their sin, yet God in His mercy has chosen to redeem some.**

F. Will there be different degrees of judgment for the lost? (read Luke 12:47, 48; Daniel 12:3; I Corinthians 3:12-14; Matthew 11:20-22; James 3:1)  
**Yes, the Scripture is clear on this.**

For those who persistently reject Christ, remaining in their sins, where is the most dangerous place for them to be?

**Ironically, sitting in the pew in a biblical church in which the gospel is clearly preached! Each time they hear the gracious offer of redemption in Christ and choose to reject it, their position before God becomes worse and worse.**

G. The other group or category of men that stands before Christ's judgment seat are the saved. What will their judgment consist of? (read Revelation 20:13; I Corinthians 3:12-14)  
**The extent of their faithfulness to walk in the light God has shown to them.**

If the redeemed are truly saved, how can they be judged?

**Even when a criminal is acquitted before a court, he has still been judged. The redeemed will be acquitted from their violation of the Covenant of Works, because Christ took their punishment upon Himself at the cross.**

Is it possible that the redeemed will receive punishment as the unredeemed will? (I Corinth. 3:12-15)

**No, the redeemed will be delivered from God's wrath and punishment. It is likely though that there will be degrees of reward in heaven. The rewards will be determined by the believer's faithfulness and by his sincerity and purity of his motivations in the doing of good works. Some may ask, "How can we be satisfied with our state in heaven if others have better rewards than us?" Remember that we will be delivered from the very *presence* of sin in heaven. Covetousness will no longer be a struggle and we will truly rejoice in the rewards others receive!**

H. How will the degree of reward or punishment be determined at the judgment seat of Christ? (read Matthew 25:35-45; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Luke 12:47, 48; Romans 2:16; and II Corinthians 5:10)

**The entire life of each person, including his motivations, attitudes, thoughts, etc., will be revealed and judged.**

Will the basis for judgment be known to others? (read Daniel 7:10; Malachi 3:16; Luke 12:3; I Corinthians 4:5; Revelation 20:12)

**Yes, the "books will be opened." Perhaps part of the sheep's redemption will be that others will not see or hear the record of their transgressions—only their own—preparing them to enter eternity grateful for the unfathomable mercy of God in forgiving them of so much!**

Will others know of God's sentencing? (read Matthew 25:34-46)

**Yes.**

Will the sentence be carried out? (read Matthew 13:30)

**Yes.**

What will the final result of Christ's judgment be?

**God will be glorified, the redeemed will be vindicated and delivered, the lost will be punished, and all creation will be healed and restored.**