

3

Presbyterianism 101

ALL TO GOD'S GLORY:
The Last Judgment
(WCF 33)

4

Eschatology & Westminster

- **Eschatology:** “the Last Things”
- **Scripture and the End Times:** Scripture says remarkable little given the fascination many Christians have with the “End Times”
 - If only Christians were fascinated with such
 - Scripture tells us: watch, be ready, pursue holiness
- **Pastoral Document:** theology that is applied

5

General Day of Judgment (33.1)

God hath appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world in righteousness, by Jesus Christ, to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father. In which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds; and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.

General Day of Judgment (33.1)

6

- **Testimony of Nature and Reason:** there must be a day of judgment for moral agents to give account
- **Scripture Confirms Day of Judgment**
 - Judgment on Nations Ps. 73:27-28, Ps. 96, Ps. 98
 - Judgment of Individuals: Acts 17:30-31

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead

General Day of Judgment (33.1)

7

- **Subjects of Judgment:** Men and Angels (2 Pt. 2:4)
- **Righteous Judgment:** not on the basis of appearances, but on motives
- **Judgment on Basis of Knowledge:** all are without excuse, but judgment is more severe for those who reject and/or break God's covenant

Rom 2:12-16, *For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus*

8

General Day of Judgment (33.1)

9

- **Subjects of Judgment:** Men and Angels (2 Pt. 2:4)
- **Righteous Judgment:** not on the basis of appearances
- **Judgment on Basis of Knowledge**
- **Christ is Given the Judgment:** **John 5:22–24**, *For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.*

General Day of Judgment (33.1)

10

- **Judgment and the Christian Life:** The Last Judgment is not irrelevant to the Christian life
- Rom 14:10–12**, *Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God*

Purpose of Judgment (33.2)

11

The end of God's appointing this day is for the manifestation of the glory of His mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of His justice, in the damnation of the reprobate who are wicked and disobedient. For then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fulness of joy and refreshing, which shall come from the presence of the Lord; but the wicked who know not God, and obey not the Gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast into eternal torments, and be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.

Purpose of Judgment (33.2)

12

- **Original Purpose of Creation:** display God's glory
- **How is God Glorified on the Last Day?**
 - Exalt God's Justice in condemning Wicked
 - Exalt God's Mercy in salvation of Elect
- **Sheep and the Goats**
 - The elect marvel, wonder at their salvation
 - The wicked shocked they are not good enough

Matt 25:37-40, *Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'*

13

Matt 25:44-46, *Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.*

14

Purpose of Judgment (33.2)

15

- **Original Purpose of Creation:** display God's glory
- **How is God Glorified on the Last Day?**
 - Exalt God's Justice in condemning Wicked
 - Exalt God's Mercy in salvation of Elect
- **After Last Judgment:** note the biblical phrases
 - Righteous: the presence of the Lord
 - Wicked: place with devil and angels

Judgment Guaranteed (33.3)

16

As Christ would have us to be certainly persuaded that there shall be a day of judgment, both to deter all men from sin, and for the greater consolation of the godly in their adversity; so will He have that day unknown to men, that they may shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come; and may be ever prepared to say, Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly, Amen.

Judgment Guaranteed (33.3)

17

- **Human Condition is Terminal**
 - Life and Death are not under human power, but modern man convinced himself they "pretty much" were no longer variables out of control
 - Past societies contemplated death frequently, yet they built flourishing civilizations
 - How has American society responded to the certainty and new danger of death?

Judgment Guaranteed (33.3)

18

- **Human Condition is Terminal**
- **Do Not Presume Judgment can be Avoided**
- **Date Fixed by God:** unknown to any but the Father

Judgment Guaranteed (33.3)

19

- **Benefits of Judgment Guaranteed**
 - Deter Sin: the fear of God (cf. 2 Cor 5:10)
 - Console the godly in adversity

2 Thes 1:5–8, *This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*

Judgment Guaranteed (33.3)

20

- **Time of Judgment Day:** not Revealed (cf. Mk 13:32);
Always be watchful; Like the days of Sodom, Noah (Lk 17)

1 Thes 5:2–6, *For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.*
