

August 19, 2018

Matthew 25:31-46

The Final Judgment of the Sheep (v. 31-40)

- The Son of God, in his role as the Son of Man, will judge the nations at His return from Heaven.
- From the beginning in **Genesis 1:1**, it has been the Son of God who is the Creator and who has been active throughout the Old Testament in his pre-incarnational role of Mediator / Messiah.
- This is the *same* Son who took to himself a human body and soul (**John 1:1-5, 10-14**) as the *Son of Man* in order to reconcile God's people to God through his atoning sacrifice (propitiation: **Rom. 3:25**).
- This is the *same* Son who has finished the work of the Father (**John 4:34; 19:30**) and who will now return to judge all the nations in relation to that finished work.
- The Son of Man calls all humanity before his Throne (**v. 32-33**), separating all humanity into two very distinct groups.
 - *Sheep* on His Right
 - *Goats* on His Left (**Ezek. 34:17-19**)

- The distinction between the *sheep* and the *goats* is determined by their relationship to Christ as evidenced in their obedience to his Word.
- “Then the King will say...” Jesus refers to himself as the *King* (**Matt. 28:18**).
- “Come, you who are blessed by my Father...”

John 10:27-29 ...My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, Who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand

- “...from the foundation of the world...” (**Eph. 1:4**).
- The way they related to one another is the way they have related to Jesus. They related in ways that served the Lord Jesus himself.

The Final Judgment of the Goats (v. 41-46)

- As with the sheep, Jesus explains that the way the goats have related to his sheep was also how they have related to him.

The Place of “Our” Works in Salvation

- When we think of *words* in relation to our standing before God, we often recall **Eph. 2:8-9**.

***Eph. 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast...*

- How should we understand “not a result of works”?

***James 2:17-18** So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works...*

- The Christian faith is a religion of faith-filled relational obedience to God’s Word that facilitates our fellowship with God. It is filled with commands that we are to keep as a result of our salvation.

***Acts 6:7** And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith*

***2 Cor. 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat [Gr. “bema”] of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done [deeds] in the body, whether good or evil...*

- The judgment that Paul speaks about is the judgment of our deeds, not of our salvation.

- Jesus' judgement of the sheep is his declaration that they belong to him as proven by their deeds *of* righteousness, not deeds *for* righteousness.
- Their deeds *proved* that they belong to him, that they are the genuine sheep of his pasture.

John 10:27 *My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me*