

## Studies in 1 Peter - Discussion Guide for Community Groups

### Session 4: Judgment (1 Peter 1:17-21)

#### Background

*As a Believer in Christ, are we under God's grace, or are we under God's judgment? Grace and judgment are not mutually exclusive. In other words, both grace and judgment apply to us. The Apostle Paul taught the church about God's grace more than any other writer in the New Testament; and yet, Paul also wrote the following: Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.*

*I think that one of the reasons we wrestle with the idea of God's judgment is that we tend to view the idea of "judgment" as something that is negative. Since God is without partiality, His judgment is purely an accurate assessment of our actions. God's accurate judgment is the reason that we need grace.*

#### Bible Text: 1 Peter 1:17-21 NKJV

**And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; [18] knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, [19] but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. [20] He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world but was manifest in these last times for you [21] who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.**

There is an important concept in the Book of Proverbs that is often overlooked.

*Proverbs 9:10 NKJV The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.* Some teachers try to explain the fear of the Lord away, or water the concept down. I think that they wrestle with reconciling the goodness of God with the judgment of God.

- How would you describe or define "fear of the Lord?"
- How do you reconcile the goodness of God with the judgment of God?

**Read Verse 17: And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear...**

- We are saved by grace, which means that Jesus has paid the price for our sin; however, our works and conduct have consequences. What are some of the consequences (both positive and negative) of our actions?
- Should we concern ourselves with the actions of our lives? (Why?)

**Read Verses 18 & 19: ...knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, [19] but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**

- Every time we take communion together, we are remembering Christ's atoning work. What does the precious blood of Christ mean to you personally?
- Why was it necessary for Christ to be a sacrifice that was without blemish or spot?

**Read Verses 20 & 21: He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.**

- The plan of Salvation was in motion before the creation. This means that God also knew that man would fall prey to sin as Adam and Eve were deceived by the Serpent. Why do you think that Adam and Even disobeyed God?
- How does the resurrection of Christ encourage our faith and hope?

**Wrap-up:** Romans 6:1-2 NKJV *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?* The surest way to avoid the judgment or even the chastisement of God is to judge ourselves. We need to understand that the actions and choices of our lives indeed have consequences. On the positive side, walking in obedience will result in God's blessings.