



**Next Stop the Pearly Gates... Or Not?**

2 Peter 3:8-13, Rev. 20:11-15

**Rev. Abi Foerster**

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**Two historic questions to consider:** 1) "Have you faith in Jesus Christ?"  
2) "Are you going on to perfection?" Take a moment to reflect on your answers below...

*"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." (2 Peter 3:8, NIV)*

*"But when the Day of God's Judgment does come, it will be unannounced, like a thief. The sky will collapse with a thunderous bang, everything disintegrating in a huge conflagration, earth and all its works exposed to the scrutiny of Judgment." (2 Peter 3:10, Message)*

- **So, I want to ask you this morning:** Are you going on toward God, whose love is perfect in every way? If not, where are you going? What will be the final destination of your life?

**1. We believe in judgment because we believe in \_\_\_\_\_.**

<sup>40</sup> "As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. (Matthew 13:40 – 41, NIV)

- There is no justice without judgment. Justice happens through the process of judgment.

**2. Even though we \_\_\_\_\_ being accountable to God and one another, a final day of judgement is coming.**

<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. (Rev. 20:12)

- The brokenness of our world throughout history causes us to understand the whole issue of judgment through one supreme fact: Jesus Christ is the Lord of judgement day.

**3. The good news is that divine justice is geared more toward our \_\_\_\_\_ than our eternal damnation.**

<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. (John 3:16-17)



**Doggy Bag:** *Something to Chew On and Ponder Throughout the Week*

1. Re-read 2 Peter 3:8 – 13. If you were in charge of the world's clock, would you slow it down or speed it up? Why? If you were in charge of creating, destroying, and redeeming the world, which of these would you take more "time" doing? Why?
2. Read Matthew 13:24 – 30, 36 -43. What was the enemy trying to accomplish by sowing bad seed in with the good? What happens to the wheat and the weeds at the "end of the age" (v. 40)?
3. Why does the Parable of the Weeds so puzzle the disciples? Why is God's patience and tolerance toward unbelievers difficult for them (and for us)? What does this parable teach us about God? About our accountability?
4. Read Revelation 20:11 – 15. How does God's judgement make you feel? Is it terrifying? Is it comforting? Is it both? And why?
5. Has there been a time in your life (or maybe now?) when God has not answered your prayers for justice in the timing that you preferred? Have you had to wait on him? What was that process like? How would you encourage someone who is in a season of waiting for justice right now?

**The Bottom Line:**

**Divine justice is designed to help us, not hurt us.**