

THE BANNER

Last month we looked at the Bible's teaching that the Lord is coming in Judgement. The judgement will be a final judgment upon this entire world and everyone who has ever been in it. There will be no second chance after death. We will all ultimately answer to God.

But what will be the basis for the Lord's judgment? What is His standard? For what and concerning what will we be judged?

There are people who think that God will weigh our good works against the bad and that we have only to hope for a passing grade. Frankly, I have never heard a coherent explanation of how that might work and what grade is passing. How many points do you get for helping a guy buy groceries? How many points do you lose for eating your sister's pizza out of the fridge? Is murder or adultery an automatic "F?" Is 76% God's passing grade? Or does God grade on a curve? Maybe you have to finish in the top 50%. Some would say that God just gives everyone a pass and we all go to heaven... except Hitler. No one seems to want Hitler to be in heaven. Personally, I don't think he will be, along with many others.



WHAT IS THE LORD'S BASIS FOR JUDGMENT?

by Pastor John Mochel

The Bible helps us to think about all this. In Matthew 7:13-14 Jesus gives us a warning.

“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

Right away our expectations must be informed by Jesus' comparison. Many are headed to destruction; few to life. We can say confidently that Jesus says that most people are headed for hell. And Jesus might know a thing or two about all of this. Certainly, He knows more than I do.

Right after this, in Matthew, Jesus helps us to understand the basis for God's judgment of people. He uses the parable of the good tree and the bad tree. A good tree produces good fruit, a bad tree bad fruit. Fruit means what someone does in their lives, what they produce. The bad trees get burned up in the fire. Jesus follows this with a brief explanation that many people think they are going to heaven but are not because they did not obey God.

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Another parable follows; the parable of the house built on the rock and the house on the sand.

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it. Matthew 7:24-27

Clearly, the basis for God's judgment is whether a person hears the words of Jesus and lives accordingly. If one does this, he is wise. If one does not, he is a fool, and his end is destruction.

Then we have the last parable that Jesus tells in the book of Matthew, the parable of the sheep and the goats in the judgment.

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left."

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'"

"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.'"

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'"

"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." Matthew 25:31-46






This parable unmistakably illustrates for us again the basis for God's judgment. He judges on the basis of what people did or didn't do to "the least of these my brothers." God will judge us according to what we do or don't do in caring for those who love Jesus. God judges us according to our actions.

Revelation 20:12 confirms this.

"And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done."

Next month we consider what the Bible says about what is a passing grade. I warn you. It isn't encouraging. Our problem is that we do not obey God very well. But God has a solution for our failure.~

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:30-11:30a Bridal Shower for Ashlynn Rozeboom
3 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 6p Bible Study	4 6:30p Pathways 7p HS Study 7p Dig Deeper	5	6 12p Community Study 6:30p AIC Youth	7 9:30a Women's Study 7:30p Men's Study	8 9a Elder Board Meeting	9 9a Missions Committee Meeting
10 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 	11 6:30p Pathways 7p HS Study 7p Dig Deeper Pastor at BOMS in Minneapolis, MN	12	13 12p Community Study 6:30p Baccalaureate	14 9:30a Women's Study 7:30p Men's Study	15 10-11a Homeschool book talk	16 
17 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 6p Bible Study	18 6:30p Pathways 7p HS Study 7p Dig Deeper	19	20 9a Beresford Ministerial 12p Community Study	21 9:30a Women's Study 7:30p Men's Study	22 6:30p AIC Youth Cookout @ Marohl's	23
24 / 31 9a SS 10a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 6p Bible Study	25 	26	27 12p Community Study	28 9:30a Women's Study 7:30p Men's Study	29 6:30-8p BACHE Meeting	30

Happy Birthday to:

1 Morgan Fahlberg
3 Annie Bird
3 Gabriel Stake
3 Maura VanHofwegen
4 Sabreena Snook
6 Tiana Fahlberg
6 Trevin Fahlberg

12 Sara Hoffman
12 Ezekiel Krebs
14 Luke VanHofwegen
17 Levi Hyronimus
18 Rita Adams
18 Amanda Hyronimus
18 LuAnn Swanson

19 Cliff Carnes
19 Timm Hoffman
19 Riva Sharples
19 Nash Wergin
20 Dan Erickson
26 Sarah Wergin
30 Chris DeLay

Happy Anniversary to:

24 Reid & Marilyn Jensen

SERVICE + OPPORTUNITIES

THEN FEED JUST ONE

You and your family are needed to help pack 35,000 meals for Haiti. The Mompremiers from United Christians International will be working with us to help us meet our goal!

JUNE 20, 2026

Many volunteers age 5 -90+ for about 2 hours will pack meals to help feed hungry Haitians. Start inviting your friends, families & neighbors! A sign-up sheet will be available later this month.

PINE RIDGE MISSIONS TRIP

Handy with a hammer & power tools, or maybe a paint brush & roller, or perhaps landscaping & gardening are your gift? Then join the team headed to Pine Ridge!

JULY 12-17, 2026

It isn't all work! There will also be numerous opportunities to share the gospel. For questions, contact Connie Schmidt at (605)957-5585.

BWCA CANOE TRIP

Adventure awaits for the strong & courageous who will be spending 6 days & 5 nights in the wilderness. Bible studies around a campfire or at the lake's edge deepen your relationship with the Creator.

JULY 27-AUGUST 3, 2026

Get your \$100 deposit to Pastor John to reserve your spot. If you help with fundraising, your cost for the remainder of the trip will be around \$150. Contact Pastor John to register at (605)351-6630.

Prayerfully consider how God can use your abilities, gifts and talents to further the Gospel and show the love of Jesus to others.

MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

Date	Greeters	Nursery	Children's Church	Music/Missions	Scripture Reader
5/3	L/L Koth	Karla Bovill Selah Stake	B VanHofwegen Sydney DeLay	Anna Kelderman	Allen Sveeggen
5/10	M/M Wynia	Michelle DeLay Annalisa Stake	BJ Pramann Elijah Stake	Open	Reid Jensen
5/17	B/B Erickson	Jen Gordon Isaac Bovill	Harley Koth Payden Hoffman	Rylee Adam	Arlyn Abrams
5/24	C/M DeLay	Stacy Sims Lewie Gordon	Michelle DeLay Andrew Bovill	Zech Stake	Dan Paulson
5/31	M/K Bovill	Nancy Mochel Clara Sims	Julie Saugstad Elsie Bovill	Open	Matthew Wynia
6/3	C/S Carnes	Jackie Krebs Memphis Meier	Nancy Mochel Elijah Stake	Tavin Lewis	Jerrold Wynia
6/10	K/R Leikvold	Karla Bovill Abby Wergin	Connie Pierce Isaac Bovill	Harley Koth	Rhonda Wynia
6/17	K Erickson	Michelle DeLay C VanHofwegen	Colleen Buss Lewie Gordon	Open	Robin Leikvold
6/24	T/H Lewis	Jen Gordon Wesley Krebs	B VanHofwegen Sara Hoffman	S VanHofwegen	Ted Lewis
6/31	A Sveeggen	Stacy Sims Bethany Hoffman	Michelle DeLay AG Kelderman	Matilda Lewis	Jeremy Saugstad

MAY

Worship Leader
John Fahlberg

Keyboard
Doreen Fahlberg

Ushers
Jeremy Saugstad, Al Sveeggen,
Luke Koth, Chris DeLay

JUNE

Worship Leader
Pete Fahlberg

Keyboard
Connie Twedt

Ushers
Mark Bovill, Matthew Wynia,
Brian Erickson, Reid Jensen

CONGRATULATIONS

to our

Graduates

Harley Koth
Aiden Monen

Wyatt Sims
Payden Hoffman

“THE LORD SHALL GUIDE THEE CONTINUALLY.”
ISAIAH 58:11

May 3

John 16:25-33 Prayer & Persecution

May 10

Proverbs 31 Ruth, the Proverbs 31 Woman

May 17

John 17:1-12 The High Priestly Prayer: Kept by Jesus

May 24

John 17:13-26 The High Priestly Prayer: Sent by Jesus

May 31

John 20:19-31 Jesus & Thomas