

JUDGING OURSELVES

NOVEMBER 2, 2022

1 PETER 4:12-19

There are four points Peter focuses on in these verses:

- 1.) It's not unusual for Christians to be persecuted or face trials.
- 2.) It's not persecution if we're reaping the sin one has sown.
- 3.) Suffering persecution as a Christian should cause us to rejoice. The spirit of glory and God rest upon us.
- 4.) Judgment begins at the house of God. **MT. 7:1-5**

Judgment Begins with Believers

If God is going to judge those outside His house, we can expect Him to cleanse His house first. He will deal with His own before dealing with outsiders. Jesus cleansed the temple twice: when He began His ministry and when He ended His earthly ministry.

- Discipline begins in God's house.
- Accountability begins in God's house.
- Holiness begins in God's house.
- Integrity begins in God's house.
- Justice begins God's house.
- Moral responsibility begins in God's house. **1 COR. 5:1-5**

MT. 21:12-16

God's house is to be a house of purity, prayer, power and perfected praise. Not a house of entertainment, social activity, religious traditions or traditions of men. If we want God's judgment to fall on something outside the church, we must know it begins within the church first.

- Abortion: 43% of aborting women identify as protestant, and 27% identify as being Catholic. That's 70% in the U.S.
- If we want judgment to fall on those without, God's people must humble themselves, repent and allow God to transform our lives.

Repent

2 CORINTHIANS 7:7-12

True heartfelt, Godly sorrow leads to repentance. "I just want to know when you'll be sorry enough to quit", a little boy said to his older brother. One can say they're sorry many times but that's not repentance.

- Repentance is stating our desire to please God, not self. It changes the way we think, speak and act. It's making a decision to quit and change.
- Repentance is making a decision to change the direction of our lives. It means to turn around and go in the right direction.

God's Judgment

God's judgment is not meant to lead to crushing guilt. It's meant to bring repentance. It's for our own good and the good of the church: to refine us, purify us, mature and transform us into salt and light. What begins in refining judgment, ends in redeeming grace.

Conclusion: Knowing one day we all will stand before the judgment seat of Christ, it would benefit us to judge ourselves now to make sure our future judgment goes well.