

**November 15, 2009**  
**"JUDGMENT", *Daily Disciple*, page 328**



### **PSALM**

<sup>17</sup> For you are their glory and strength,  
and by your favor you exalt our horn.

<sup>18</sup> Indeed, our shield belongs to the LORD,  
our king to the Holy One of Israel."

(Psalm 89:17-18)

### **MEDITATION**

"Be warned and entreated, then, to turn to the Lord before the day of vengeance shall come—before the terrible announcement shall be made that 'time shall be no longer,' but eternity, with all its solemnities and realities, shall be ushered in. May we find mercy of the Lord in that day!"

(Benjamin Franklin, *The Gospel Preacher*, VOL. 1, page 455)

### **SCRIPTURE**

<sup>11</sup>Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. <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. <sup>13</sup>The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. <sup>14</sup>Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. <sup>15</sup>If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15)

### **PRAYER**

"Father, I thank you for your mercy through Jesus the Christ, that he came to save the world and not to condemn. Your mercy triumphs over judgment!"

## Digging Deeper: Finding out, discussion and sharing

1. This devotional message focuses on divine judgment and how God's people are saved by mercy.
2. According to Psalm 89:17-18 the picture is given of God's divine mercy and protection for his people. Explain how the images of "horn" and "shield" express God's divine mercy and protection.
3. Is there a balance in how Christians ought to view divine mercy and divine judgment? What distortions of the Christian faith occur when the emphasis is on one to the exclusion of the other?
4. In his meditation thoughts, Benjamin Franklin uses the expression "day of vengeance" to refer to the coming of the Lord and the end of time. He no doubt is referring to the passage in 2 Thessalonians 1:8 (King James Version) where it says that Jesus will return "*In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"
  - a. Read the full context of 2 Thessalonians 1:3-11.
  - b. Since God is just, what is He going to do?
  - c. On the day Jesus comes back, what is he coming to do?
  - d. Where do God's people fit into this?
  - e. Why have we typically read this as a punishment passage rather than a hope passage?
5. Two basic words for judgment are used in the New Testament, *krima* (judgment seat) and *krisis* (act of judging and discernment).
  - a. Read Acts 24:25. This is Paul before Felix. When Paul discussed the "judgment (*krima*) to come," what do you suppose he said?
  - b. Read Matthew 5:21-22. Ultimate judgment (*krisis*) is equated with the danger of fire of hell. Why is saying "You Fool!" deserving of this kind of punishment? What is Jesus really getting at?
  - c. Find passages in Revelation that describe the Judgment Day. What images and messages surround these occurrences in the book of Revelation?
6. In the Revelation 20 passage, John mentions what he saw in this vision. As part of the judgment process, every person is judged according to his or her deeds. Is this salvation by works? Do we have to build up a reservoir of good works so that we can be ready for the judgment day?
7. What do you think it means for your name to be found in the book of Life?
8. What is your personal belief about the end times? This is called *eschatology*, or doctrine about the end of the ages. In your view, when, where and how are people going to be judged?
9. Is it possible for Christians to fear the judgment? If so, what would be the legitimate situation for that to occur?
10. Is it possible for Christians to look forward to the judgment?
11. One important aspect often gets overlooked in this discussion: a favorite expression for New Testaments is "when Jesus comes." The endtimes are expressed as the coming of Jesus. Read the following passages and discuss: 1 John 2:28; 2 Peter 3:12; James 5:7-8