

Acts 17:30-31 – The Day of Judgment

There will be a day of judgment – how we can know (5 reasons)

1. Your conscience witnesses to it

God has given everyone a conscience. It is that voice, inside you, that speaks about right and wrong. It speaks about guilt and makes us fear punishment – even when no man knows what we have done! The conscience is God's witness. It tells us that God sees, God remembers, and God will judge.

2. God's character requires it

God is a God of perfect holiness. To think he will not remember evil done in his world is to think that he is not really God. Men are careful to make sure that their company orders and laws of the land are obeyed – do we think God cares less than they do, about his own holy laws?

3. Because justice is not done in this life

If God's character requires justice, then there must be justice on some future day. We all know that justice is not done in this life. Every tribe and people remembers the wrongs that have been done to them, and hopes they will be made right. Often, in this life, they are not made right. Idi Amin killed hundreds of thousands, but was never brought to justice in this life. But nobody can escape justice, because God has a day of judgment.

4. Christ's resurrection proves it

Jesus rose from the dead (v31). Paul was an eye-witness who saw the risen Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:8). The tomb was empty. This is why Christianity spread around the world – the risen Jesus was working with power.

5. God's love to his people requires it

God has chosen certain people and he loves them. Those people are ignored and/or persecuted by this world. God sees all this and will remember it. Because he loves his people, he must honour them before everyone one day – on the day of judgment.

Why that day has not yet come

Since God hates sin so much, why has he not yet judged the world? It is because he is so patient. He is perfect in patience as well as holiness. He desires to see us turn back to him. Even 2000 years after Paul preached, he is still waiting in his kindness. He is waiting and giving us the opportunity – and command! – to repent. See also 2 Peter 3:7-10.

How to be ready for that day

Firstly, we need to recognise that Jesus is the Lord. He is the judge, raised from the dead. Everything belongs to him. Then, we must trust him as our Saviour. His name, “Jesus”, means “Saviour”. He died on the cross for sinners, to take their punishment on himself. Finally, we must repent of our sins (v30). To repent means to “turn around”. We have lived as if the world was ours. Now we must live recognising that the world, and we ourselves, all belong to Jesus.