

Convent Avenue Baptist Church
Wednesday Bible Study 7/7/10
Pastor Jesse Williams

The Articles of Faith; What we believe...

Article XVII. Righteous and Wicked

Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 9:27-28

This scriptural teaching is one that is often difficult for many in this post-modern age to accept or embrace. When contemporary thinkers look at this doctrine, they have a tendency to label it as “*judgmental*” or “*intolerant*”. Perhaps it is because one of the trademarks of the post-modern era is that everything is “*relative*”, and that nothing is really definitely black or white, but rather everything is really shades of gray. In post-modern thinking, there is no real absolute truth, no absolute right or wrong and really no absolute good or bad. Everything is simply relative based on the perspective of the individual.

This doctrinal teaching tells us that scripture teaches us that from God’s perspective there is a distinct difference between the righteous and the wicked, between right and wrong, and between heaven and hell! And the point is that God Himself is the judge who determines and declares us to be one or the other. Judgment is not in the hands of individuals, rather God is the only ultimate judge who declares us righteous. The righteous are those who have been saved by Jesus Christ, justified by God and sanctified by the Holy Spirit of God. The wicked are those who have chosen to reject and resist the message and invitation of God that has been presented to them in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When a righteous dies, they are rewarded with eternal life in fellowship with God and all other believers in heaven. When a wicked person dies, they are subject to the consequences of the curse which occurred in the Fall, and thus they are dismissed from the presence of God to spend eternity in hell.

All human beings will be judged by God based on how we have lived in this life. This is all the more reason why we should be so thankful for Jesus Christ! We are saved from an eternal punishment in hell because Jesus Christ has redeemed us and made our lives brand new. There is a heaven, and a hell. After we have lived our appointed time on earth, we must all stand before God to be judged, and then we will spend eternity in either heaven or hell. Thank God that He has provided the way for us to have everlasting life with Him through Jesus Christ.

There are many who don’t believe that there is a heaven or hell, or that God will judge us. But scripture is clear in pointing out that God is watching how we live, and that He distinguishes between what and who is good and evil, righteous or wicked. We are all far from being perfectly holy on our own, but as Christians we must always strive to become more and more like Jesus each day. We will have to give an account to God one day for how we have lived in this life. Thank God for grace! We believe that Jesus is coming back again, and when He comes back again He is coming to judge the world and everybody in it. We don’t know when He is coming back or when we may die; so it behooves us to live each day to the glory of God and to try to please the Lord with every moment of life that we have.