

February 26, 2022



### Sabbath FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?” (Matthew 7:1-3, NKJV).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 24, Christ’s Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary:** “The investigative judgment reveals to heavenly intelligences who among the dead are asleep in Christ and therefore, in Him, are deemed worthy to have part in the first resurrection. It also makes manifest who among the living are abiding in Christ, keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, and in Him, therefore, are ready for translation into His everlasting kingdom. This judgment vindicates the justice of God in saving those who believe in Jesus.”
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 125, 126

### THE REAL ISSUE

“As a captive in a foreign land, Daniel determined in his late teens to be true to God. Ushered into the luxurious banquet hall of the Babylonian king, he refused to worship the king’s idols, drink the king’s wine, or eat the king’s unclean delicacies. Yet he did it with such grace that he eventually won the hearts of his captors.

“Daniel’s spiritual integrity continued throughout his life. When he was in his mid-80s, he faced perhaps his greatest test. Conniving co-workers schemed against him. They slyly influenced the king to pass a decree forbidding worship of any god except himself for 30 days. Obviously Daniel could not comply. The price for disobedience was high.

“The prophet did not make his decision based on the consequences of his actions. He made it based on faithfulness to God’s Word. Had he considered the consequences, death in the lions’ den, he might have yielded. Being torn apart limb by limb by ferocious bloodthirsty lions is not a very pleasant thought. Anytime the consequences of a decision become the driving force in making a decision, we are likely to yield.

“One of the most successful coaches in the history of professional football was Vince Lombardi, of the Green Bay Packers. A reporter asked why they gave so much of themselves each Sunday. He queried, ‘Why is your team notably different? Why do you leave everything out on the field?’ The players responded, ‘We are not playing for the crowd in the stands or the millions in the television audience. We aren’t overly concerned about what the news media says. We are playing for one thing: “the coach’s eyes.” When we review the film Monday mornings, we want to know we have satisfied Coach Lombardi.’

“Daniel did not play to the crowds. He lived to please his heavenly Father. He played for the ‘Father’s eyes.’

“When the final films of life are shown, living life to please God is what will truly count. The great heroes of faith all lived for a purpose. They stood above the masses. They viewed life from a different perspective. They did not live to please themselves or the crowd. The prime purpose of their life was to please God. In making this fundamental decision, Daniel lived a centered life. God’s formula for true peace and lasting success is still the same today.”—Mark Finley, *Solid Ground*, p. 206.

### Sunday RESPONDING

- » Read Romans 2:1.
- » Joshua’s dad and mom divorced. In the years after the divorce Joshua acted out his anger at his situation by getting into trouble with the law. After a few years he straightened out his life. He was doing well in school, had an after-school job, and was being considered for an athletic scholarship for a local private school. Eventually he might even receive a college scholarship, which would mean that his mother wouldn’t have to worry about paying for college. Then some money was stolen from the place where he worked. Everyone acted as if Joshua had gone back to his old ways. Was that fair of them? Why or why not?

### Monday BIBLE ANSWERS ON CHRIST’S MINISTRY IN THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY

- » Read Hebrews 4:14-16; Revelation 20:12; Revelation 22:11, 12.
- » Jesus was tempted just as we are. Through prayer and trust in His heavenly Father He resisted the devil and lived a sinless life. He understands what we face and go through. He offers us help in dealing with our struggles to overcome sin. He has the right to be our judge because He lived without sinning. And He knows us—everything about us! He knows what is in our hearts. We cannot deceive Him. He has begun the investigative judgment that will determine our faithfulness to Him.

» What does God know about you and your heart?

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» How can you prepare to meet Jesus?

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» Fill in the blanks.

“Therefore, brethren, having \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the Holiest by the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ over the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, let us \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ in full assurance of faith, having our \_\_\_\_\_ from an evil conscience and our \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ water” (Hebrews 10:19-22, NKJV).

**Tuesday**  
**REFLECTING**

- » Read James 2:12, 13.
- » These are the years when what your friends think of you is probably more important than even what the adults in your life think of you. At this time in your life you probably have a specially chosen group of friends you like to be with. They probably share your interests, likes and dislikes, way of dressing, things to do in your free time, and music that you listen to. And there may not seem to be room in your life for many other people. And that's OK up to a certain point.
- » Good friends will help you get through this difficult time in your life when it seems as if your mind and body aren't in agreement with each other about anything. Because you may feel awkward within yourself, you may not want to be around someone else who seems awkward in your social setting. Unfortunately, instead of being compassionate toward those who are unlike you, you may tend to exclude those people from your life based on what they seem like on the outside.
- » Jesus says we have to get over it. He was the ultimate example of not judging and not excluding. He treated everyone with respect and concern—even when He pointed out things in their lives that were clearly against God's law. You can make sure that people are included in group gatherings, that you refuse to participate when others talk about them, and that you give gentle hints that might help them get along better with others.
- » And if you don't? One day you may be in their position, and they may treat you the same way you've treated them. God says so.

**Thursday**  
**CONNECTING**

- » Read John 5:22.
- » Review the memory text.
- » God says He, through His Son, Jesus Christ, is the only one who can judge people. And rightly so. They created us, and Jesus lived the life that is ours in this world. No one else in history has had the range of experience of being tempted and rejected as He has. Only He understands the experience of every person who has ever lived and will ever live.
- » So if we can't have Jesus' experience, what gives us the right to judge? Nothing and no one. All we can do is to ask Him for the grace to look at others through His eyes, to listen to others' stories about their lives and act accordingly. Even when we can tell that they are doing something God forbids, Jesus asks us not to condemn but to help.
- » And what if we don't? Jesus Himself tells us that in the same way we judge others, we will be judged. Think of a time when you've had the experience of being wrongly judged. How did it feel? How would you do things differently next time?
- » Remember, God is a God of second chances, if you've judged someone unfairly before, determine through His power to not do it again.

**Wednesday**  
**BIBLE INSIGHTS**

- » In the Bible are texts telling us how God feels about judging. Below are a few of them. Please fill in the blanks.
- 1. "Do not \_\_\_\_\_, or you too will be \_\_\_\_\_. For in the same way you \_\_\_\_\_ others, you will be \_\_\_\_\_, and with the \_\_\_\_\_ you use, it will be \_\_\_\_\_ to you. Why do you look at the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the \_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_?" (Matthew 7:1-3, NIV).
- 2. "The Father \_\_\_\_\_ no one, but has \_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_" (John 5:22, NIV).
- 3. "Stop \_\_\_\_\_ by mere \_\_\_\_\_, but instead \_\_\_\_\_" (John 7:24, NIV).
- 4. "You \_\_\_\_\_ by human \_\_\_\_\_; I pass \_\_\_\_\_ on no one" (John 8:15, NIV).
- 5. "At whatever point you \_\_\_\_\_ another, you are \_\_\_\_\_ yourself, because you who pass \_\_\_\_\_ do the same things" (Romans 2:1, NIV).
- 6. "Speak and act as those who are going to be \_\_\_\_\_ by the law that gives freedom, because \_\_\_\_\_ without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ triumphs over \_\_\_\_\_!" (James 2:12, 13, NIV).
- 7. "Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks \_\_\_\_\_ a brother or sister or \_\_\_\_\_ them speaks \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and judges it. When you \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, you are not keeping it, but sitting in \_\_\_\_\_ on it. There is only one \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to \_\_\_\_\_ your neighbor?" (James 4:11, 12, NIV).

**Friday**  
**APPLYING**

- » Read James 4:11, 12.
- » Remember the proverb "Don't judge any man until you have walked two moons in his moccasins"? Think of experiences you have had being judged or judging others. Think of some other ways to express experiencing what someone else has experienced in order to understand them. For example, *Don't judge a person until you have eaten the food they have eaten*. Grab a pencil and write out some of your ideas in the following space.

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