

Address: 160 Paya Lebar Road, Orion@Paya Lebar #04-06, Singapore 409022  
Sun Worship Service: 10am, Sun School: 11.45am, Wed Prayer Meeting: 8pm  
Website: [www.sovereignhopebpc.org](http://www.sovereignhopebpc.org)  
Rev Dr Jack Sin: 91160948 (hp) / [jacksin710@gmail.com](mailto:jacksin710@gmail.com)  
Elder Loke Tat Luen: [tiloke822@gmail.com](mailto:tiloke822@gmail.com)

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## God's Righteous Judgment and Wrath

We live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century postmodern era, which is not very different from 1st century Rome. Rome was caught up idolatry and much iniquity. In Romans 1:29 – 32, Paul writes about the depraved nature of the world during his time, and these are characteristics of our generation as well. Because of this, God will

judge the world one day. In Scripture, the noun "*judgment*" is mentioned more than 300 times while the verb "*judge*" is used more than about 200 times.

### 1. Reasons for God's Judgment (Rom 2: 1–2)

Here is a strong biblical and theological case for divine judgment. Unlike His birth at His first advent where He came as a baby in a manger, Christ shall return in His second coming as a judge to rule and adjudicate divine judgment. God has to execute perfect divine judgment which is long overdue. All of the world will face divine judgment which will be according to truth. So why and how will we be judged?

In the context of Romans 2, Paul was writing to the diaspora in Rome. Rome was the centre of the world and the place to go. In the Roman world, there were all kinds of people who think they can go to heaven by being self-righteous. Thus, Paul was addressing self-righteous people such as moralists, religious elites, Pharisees, idolators practicing homosexuals and anyone who have an external form of "righteousness, or religion" but not according to truth. In the gospels, Jesus had kind words for Zacchaeus and those who were repentant. But His strongest words were for the Pharisees who were the religious intelligentsia.

The condition for people to be judged is a depraved world. And yes, there will be an increase in the moral and spiritual deterioration of the world as we witness it today. 2 Timothy 3:1 – 5 describes the depraved characteristics of



people in perilous times (e.g. disobedience, false accusers). Likewise, Romans 1:29 – 32 mentions that people with these depraved characteristics challenge the almighty God. Just look at the daily newspapers with news of CBT, IT and romantic scams, marital failures and divorces and family feuds, robbery, drugs, violence and much moral spiritual and physical evil around us. The social media can also fuel such evil into flames. Indeed, the world is ripe to be judged.

Can we escape the judgment of God (v. 3)? Paul was referring to Jews and Gentiles who may think they can get away with God's judgment. Instead of having a reverential awe towards God, some people have no fear of God and they challenge Him. God the Creator will be the ultimate judge who has ever right to adjudicate judgment. So, what shall we do (v. 4)? We must repent. Repentance (**μετάνοια** - metanoia) means a change of orientation of minds. Those who are impenitent in (unrepentant, and without a penitent heart which is broken and contrite [Psalm 51]) and with the hardness (stubbornness) of heart will face the wrath and the righteous judgment of God to come (v. 5). The day would come when we have to face the judgment of God as we will all appear before the **βήμα** (Bema) - the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10).

## **2. Reality of God's Judgment (Rom 2: 6–9)**

God would judge people for what they have done. And what happens when people die? In Revelations 20:12 – 15, there is a sense of sobriety as we read the truth. Before the great white throne, those who are outside of the kingdom of God shall face eternal judgment and end up in the lake of fire. The judgment is real, eternal and forever, and no one will escape the wrath of God without Christ. In Luke 16:27 – 31, the rich man who died and was in hell pleaded with Abraham to send someone to warn his brethren, but Abraham replied that no one would come back from the dead and the rich man's brothers have the written word of the prophets or preachers and we have the complete Word of God today.

Who can stand before God? Those who are evil and unregenerate cannot do so. This includes so-called "Christians" who may have a form of religion and partake the means of grace superficially, but without true faith and real repentance. If God were to deal with us the moment we sin (e.g., having an evil thought), we would be struck dead instantly. Nevertheless, it is the God's goodness leads us to repentance. Since God is so gracious, should not we stop breaking His laws against Him?

Where do we stand today before God if He should come? Are we and our children those who are truly saved and justified (v. 7) or those who think they are saved, whether Jew or Gentile (v. 8)? God is no respecter of persons, thus there is no partiality with Him (Deuteronomy 1:17). As judgment is of God, it does not matter who you are. Balaam who was covetous failed to speak forth God's true oracles but was bribed by the foe and was punished. King Saul who sought a witch at Endor later committed suicide thru his amour bearer and ended badly. Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt. Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead after they lied to the Holy Spirit and kept part of

the offerings to themselves, and Demas have forsaken Christ for the world. Someone asked, can we ask dead “saints” to pray for us or for the dead to enter heaven? This is never taught in the Bible. There is only one way to heaven, through Christ our Mediator, and not through any co-mediatrix, saints or angels and the worship of relics or sacred ceremonies.

### **3. Realization of Judgment (Rom 2: 12–16)**

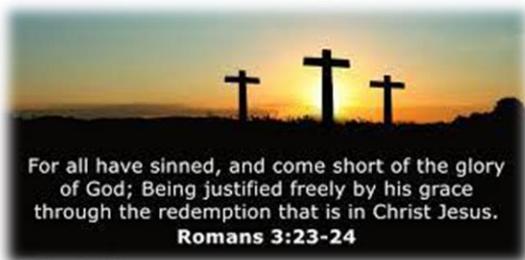
In vv. 14 – 15, our conscience is a standard, like a moral agent that tells us whether we have obeyed the word of God. If we do something wrong, we know it is wrong. Even though our conscience is not perfect, we can still have a good conscience if it accords with the word of God. But if our conscience is seared with hot iron, this moral agent of ours is in vain.

All of us are born under the law, and we are unable to keep the law wholly. In Luke 10:17 – 22, the rich young man was presumptuous that he kept the whole law, but it was done so externally. Hypothetically, if someone has not sinned, he can go to heaven. If you can meet the standards of God’s law, you can be justified. But who can meet that perfect standard? No one can do that (Romans 3:11 -12), for “all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:28) We have all missed the mark. (meaning of the word sin) The moment you have hatred or covetousness or anger or malice in your heart or mind, you have sinned already. As indicated in v. 13, it is the doers, not hearers, of the law which shall be justified by active faith. However, someone kept the whole law without sin and this person is Jesus Christ. Christ’s active (His perfect obedience to the law) and passive (His death on the cross) obedience gives us the righteousness that is imputed to us by faith. Faith is the instrument by which we are justified. Christ saves us by His life, death and resurrection from the dead.

### **Conclusion**

Jesus Christ is the only Redeemer and let us come to him in faith and repentance. He can change our hearts and transform the way we think and how we live, and He will sanctify us with the living word. Let us

turn away from our total depravity and turn our hearts in evangelical repentance and by faith alone unto that one true Saviour one mediator, Jesus Christ.



*Jack Sin*

## *Sharing and Thanksgiving by Campers & Friends*



Thank you, Pastor Jack and Angie, for the wonderful fellowship and biblical lessons that we had learnt especially on communications and relationships. We hope that our family may learn to apply it in our lives to be doers and not only hearers. Praise God for leading us to this camp. Especially like to send our appreciations to Joseph and his team for all the timely arrangements and wonderful sharing. All Glory to God.

***Vincent & family***

Thank you, Pastor, I was really encouraged by the message that you shared and the group discussion we had.

***Meshak***

I am glad I attended the camp, regret I missed the last lunch. Hope there will be reunion gathering sometime in the future.

***Chor Hwee***



(from left) Joseph, Devi, Santhi, John Caleb, Chor Hwee, Meshak, Vincent

Thank you for the wonderful and edifying fellowship and the opportunity to join your church camp and to benefit from your timely and relevant messages.

**Eld Jeffrey Cheong**

**Gospel Light BPC**



Thanks for the photos. Yes, it was time well spent at the camp, all the messages, MD, workshop, were edifying. I see a vibrant church in practice during the camp.

**Thiam Koon**

Thank you for the thematic messages as well as the sharing and prayer in the evenings. Truly, we were all blessed by God's Word and I believe strengthened in our faith. I am very glad that you reached out to us

**Anya Lim**



It's been great to have acquainted with you. Thanks for your warm hospitality and your messages, as well as allowing me to join in your church retreat in such a wonderful venue. I appreciate. May our good LORD continue to bless you as you serve out faithfully the calling to which He has called you.

**Christine**

I would love to listen to your camp messages if it is not too troublesome. Would appreciate very much.

**Mrs Patricia Lin**

Thanks be to God for the success of SHBPC's Church Camp. Judging by the smiles on the faces of campers at Chek Jawa and the makan at Changi Village, they all look very happy and contented. If you have videos of your teachings at the church camp, can you share with me and Grace? Thanks.

**George Lai**



Praise the Lord for the 44 campers who responded. I think SHBPC could be one of the first BP church to initiate a physical church camp after the easing of the SMM guidelines. Very thankful that God has given to SHBPC the zeal, energy and hard work for His name's sake.

In His glory always

**Eld Gary Tay**

**Moriah BPC**



# GODLY COUNSEL FOR PILGRIMS & STRANGERS (STUDIES IN 1 PETER)

LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FOR JUL-SEP 2022

## JULY

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- 3 Our Salvation & Eternal Hope (1 Pet 1:1-12)
- 10\* Sojourning in the Fear of God (1 Pet 1:13-25)
- 17 Of Lively Stones & Royal Priesthood (1 Pet 2:1-10)
- 24 Of Pilgrims & Strangers (1 Pet 2:11-25)
- 31 Guide for The Believers Domestic Life (1 Pet 3:1-9)

## AUGUST

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- 7 Christian Apologetics in Practice (1 Pet 3:10-15)
- 14\* Keeping a Good Conscience (1 Pet 3:16-22)
- 21 Godly Demeanour in Afflictions (1 Pet 4:1-8)
- 28 How to be Faithful Stewards of God (1 Pet 4:9-11)

## SEPTEMBER

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- 4 When We Suffer for Christ (1 Pet 4:12-19)
- 11\* Models in Meek Service (1 Pet 5:1-7)
- 18 Sober and Vigilant Stand Against Evil (1 Pet 5:8-14)
- 25 Seeking Reconciliation with God (2 Cor 5:11-21)



**SOVEREIGNHOPE**  
bible presbyterian church

PASTOR JACK SIN +65 91160948 | SOVEREIGNHOPEBPC@GMAIL.COM  
WWW.SOVEREIGNHOPEBPC.ORG | 160 PAYA LEBAR ROAD, ORION+PAYA LEBAR #04-06 SINGAPORE 409022

## Memory Verse

Rom 5:11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

## Announcements

1. Welcome to our Gospel Sunday Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor speaks this morning on “**Endless Hope or Hopeless End**” (Rom 5:1-11).
3. Rev Koh Hock Heng speaks next Sunday on “**Our Salvation and Eternal Hope (1 Pet 1:1-12)**”, the start of a new quarterly series on **Godly Counsel for Pilgrims and Strangers (studies in 1Peter)**.
4. Sunday School classes continues after worship service:
  - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
  - Studies in Deuteronomy – Dn Kwong Leen
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren. Included in the programme is a study on Church History in China on alternate Sundays. Join us for a time of profitable learning.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The prayer list is available in church.
7. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class will next meet on **Fri 1 Jul 2022, 7.30pm in church** on the study of 2 Samuel. Come and join us!
8. Pray for the **Cambodian Mission Team** comprising Pastor, Angie, Amber and Esther as they minister to 3 churches and a Christian University in Phnom Penh and Sihanoukville from **Jul 2 to 7**.
9. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
10. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
  - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
  - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
  - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

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