

Great Controversy Series
How Will You Be Judged?
Chapter 28 - Facing Life's Record
Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr., pastor

500th Year Anniversary of Martin Luther official protest against the Papacy is fast approaching... October 31, 2017. Are you still a protestant? All the world is wondering and worshipping the beast and his image! Prophecy is fast fulfilling

US Catholics and Protestants Agree: 500 Years after the Reformation, they have more in common than not
Religion News Service, August 31, 2017 <http://religionnews.com/2017/08/31/us-catholics-and-protestants-agree-500-years-after-reformation-they-have-more-in-common-than-not/>

Five Centuries After Reformation, Catholic-Protestant Divide in Western Europe As Faded, August 31, 2017,
Pew Research Center <http://www.pewforum.org/2017/08/31/five-centuries-after-reformation-catholic-protestant-divide-in-western-europe-has-faded/>

“As Protestants prepare to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, a new Pew Research Center survey finds that the prevailing view among Catholics and Protestants in Western Europe is that they are more similar religiously than they are different.”

Pope Francis to make Martin Luther a Saint on October 31 - April 1, 2017 <http://liturgy.co.nz/pope-francis-to-make-martin-luther-a-saint-on-october-31>

“Observers from other denominations are now looking forward to the canonisation of other significant Reformation leaders: Thomas Cranmer, Ulrich Zwingli, and John Calvin are three that spring to mind.”

We are living in the MOST solemn times in earth's history. According to the rapid fulfillment of Bible prophecy there is no doubt that we are the last generation on this planet.

Did you know that Jesus summarizes the core of the everlasting gospel in John 16:8-11 when He referred to the mission of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, to His disciples?

(Summary verse 8)

John 16:8-11

8 And when he is come, he will reprove [GK: convict / rebuke] the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

What is the summary of the mission of the everlasting gospel of the Three Angels' Message?

Convict the world of...

- 1) Sin (Breaking of God's law, sin = everlasting death)
- 2) Righteousness (Jesus cleanses us from sin and standard of righteousness)
- 3) Judgment (We are living in the hour of the investigative judgment)

What is the urgency of the message investigative judgment today?

Revelation 14:6-7

- 6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,
 7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

We are living in the hour of the investigative judgment! After the investigative judgment is complete and every case has been decided, Jesus will come again. Based on the events of Bible prophecy we are living at the closing “hour” of the investigative judgment.

When was the appointment hour of the investigative judgment scheduled? God show Daniel the making of the appointment of the investigative judgment in vision.

Daniel 7:9-10

- 9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days [God the Father] did sit, whose garment *was* white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne *was like* the fiery flame, *and* his wheels *as* burning fire.
 10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.

This scene in Daniel’s vision is taking place in the Heavenly Sanctuary in which the appointment of the judgment is set!

Remember Daniel 8:14 - 2300 year prophecy reveals when the investigative judgment began based on the start of the timeline in Daniel 9:25. In our previous studies the Bible makes it very clear that we have been in the investigative judgment since October 22, 1844! Now we are at the end of the investigative judgment. The day of atonement teaches the lesson of how Jesus completely cleanses us from sin.

What are the sequence of events that will happen at the end of the investigate judgment?

Daniel 7:13-14

- 13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.
 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.

Remember this scene that Daniel sees in the heavenly sanctuary take place in the Most holy place in which the investigative judgment takes place which started in 1844.

“The coming of Christ here described is not His second coming to the earth. He comes to the Ancient of Days in heaven to receive dominion and glory and a kingdom, which will be given Him at the close of His work as a mediator.” GC 480

After completion of the investigative judgment Jesus receives dominion and glory of the everlasting kingdom. Jesus will then take off His High Priest garments and put on the victory garments to come back to the earth the second time to physically receive His faithful into His kingdom.

Specifically, whose cases are being reviewed and decided during the investigative judgment?

Remember the lessons of salvation is reviewed in the earthly sanctuary that was a shadow of the Heavenly sanctuary. In the earthly sanctuary the investigative judgment took place once a year during the Day of

Atonement in which the high priest went into the Most High place to cleanse the record of sins that accumulated in the Holy place on a daily basis.

Think about it - whose sins were recorded in the Holy place during the daily service? Those who brought a sin offering to sanctuary to be forgiven and cleansed from sin. Those who professed by faith the future atoning blood of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. On the day of Atonement every sin that was confessed and recorded was investigated to see if they have been totally forsaken.

“In the typical service only those who had come before God with confession and repentance, and whose sins, through the blood of the sin offering, were transferred to the sanctuary, had a part in the service of the Day of Atonement. So in the great day of final atonement and investigative judgment the only cases considered are those of the professed people of God. **The judgment of the wicked is a distinct and separate work, and takes place at a later period.** 'Judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel?' 1 Peter 4:17.” GC 480

What is part of the everlasting message to those still in darkness?

Yes, it is true that we are living in the investigative judgment, but the High Priest, Jesus is still interceding, it is NOT too late to be cleansed from sin. But that time is closing fast! “Repent, repent, turn from sin and turn to Jesus Christ!

What standard are we judged by?

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

- 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.
 14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.

James 2:12

- 12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.

What books are opened that Daniel 7:10 refers to during the investigative judgment?

“The books of record in heaven, in which the names and the deeds of men are registered, are to determine the decisions of the judgment. Says the prophet Daniel: ‘The judgment was set, and the books were opened.’ The revelator, describing the same scene, adds: ‘Another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.’ Revelation 20:12.” GC 480

- 1) **The Book of Life** - contains the names of the faithful servants of God

Jesus speaking to the seventy workers, **Luke 10:20** **Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.**

Paul speaks of his faithful fellow workers, "whose names are in the book of life." **Philippians 4:3**

Daniel 12:1

1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy **people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.**

Revelation 21:27

27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Revelation 20:15

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The book of life is the ultimate book in which your name has to be recorded in order to be saved. What are some other books that are opened during the investigative judgment.

2) **Book of Remembrance** - all of deeds of God's faithful are recorded in this book.

Malachi 3:16

16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

Nehemiah 13:14

14 Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof.

“In the book of God's remembrance every deed of righteousness is immortalized. There every temptation resisted, every evil overcome, every word of tender pity expressed, is faithfully chronicled. And every act of sacrifice, every suffering and sorrow endured for Christ's sake, is recorded. Says the psalmist: ‘Thou tellest my wanderings: put Thou my tears into Thy bottle: are they not in Thy book?’ Psalm 56:8.” GC 481

3) Record of Sins (unconfessed) – all deeds of unconfessed sins

Ecclesiastes 12:14

14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good (book of remembrance), or whether it be evil (Record of sins).

Matthew 12:36-37

36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

1 Corinthians 4:5

5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Isaiah 65:6-7

6 Behold, it is written before me: I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom,

7 Your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, saith the LORD, which have burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed me upon the hills: therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom.

Review - 3 books: Book of Life, Book of Remembrance, and the Record of Sins.

“Every man's work passes in review before God and is registered for faithfulness or unfaithfulness. Opposite each name in the books of heaven is entered with terrible exactness every wrong word, every selfish act, every unfulfilled duty, and every secret sin, with every artful dissembling. Heaven-sent warnings or reproofs neglected, wasted moments, unimproved opportunities, the influence exerted for good or for evil, with its far-reaching results, all are chronicled by the recording angel.” GC 482

“As the books of record are opened in the judgment, the lives of all who have believed on Jesus come in review before God. Beginning with those who first lived upon the earth, our Advocate presents the cases of each successive generation, and closes with the living. Every name is mentioned, every case closely investigated. Names are accepted, names rejected. When any have sins remaining upon the books of record, unrepented of and unforgiven, their names will be blotted out of the book of life, and the record of their good deeds will be erased from the book of God's remembrance. The Lord declared to Moses: ‘Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book.’ Exodus 32:33. And says the prophet Ezekiel: ‘When the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, . . . all his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned.’ Ezekiel 18:24.” GC 483

What will Jesus declare for those who totally overcome sin and remain faithful to Him clothed with His robe of righteousness?

Isaiah 43:25

25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Revelation 3:5

5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

What does Satan do while Jesus pleads the case of a truly repentant sinner that forsakes sin through His blood?

Zechariah 3:1

1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.

Revelation 12:10

10 ...for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

What does Jesus do while He pleads the case of a truly repentant sinner as Satan makes his accusations?

Zechariah 3:2-5

2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?

3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.

4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

5 And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.

Where will the sins of all the repentant faithful be placed upon?

“As the priest, in removing the sins from the sanctuary, confessed them upon the head of the scapegoat, so Christ will place all these sins upon Satan, the originator and instigator of sin. The scapegoat, bearing the sins of Israel, was sent away "unto a land not inhabited" (Leviticus 16:22); so Satan, bearing the guilt of all the sins which he has caused God's people to commit, will be for a thousand years confined to the earth, which will then be desolate, without inhabitant, and he will at last suffer the full penalty of sin in the fires that shall destroy all the wicked. Thus the great plan of redemption will reach its accomplishment in the final eradication of sin and the deliverance of all who have been willing to renounce evil.” (GC 485 - 486)

Warning: Those who remain in sin will bear the penalty for their own sins! Jesus plead right now before the investigate judgment is over is repent, turn from sin and turn to Jesus!

Is there any record of sin ignored or forgotten during the investigative judgment? Can any sin be hidden from God?

Psalms 44:21

21 Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

Jeremiah 23:24

24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

Romans 2:16

16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Hebrews 4:13

13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

What else will be closely scrutinized and examined?

“In the judgment the use made of every talent will be scrutinized. How have we employed the capital lent us of Heaven? Will the Lord at His coming receive His own with usury? Have we improved the powers entrusted us, in hand and heart and brain, to the glory of God and the blessing of the world? How have we used our time, our pen, our voice, our money, our influence? What have we done for Christ, in the person of the poor, the afflicted, the orphan, or the widow? God has made us the depositaries of His holy word; what have we done with the light and truth given us to make men wise unto salvation? No value is attached to a mere profession of faith in Christ; only the love which is shown by works is counted genuine. Yet it is love alone which in the sight of Heaven makes any act of value. Whatever is done from love, however small it may appear in the estimation of men, is accepted and rewarded of God.” GC 487

“The hidden selfishness of men stands revealed in the books of heaven. There is the record of unfulfilled duties to their fellow men, of forgetfulness of the Saviour's claims. There they will see how often were given to Satan the time, thought, and strength that belonged to Christ. Sad is the record which angels bear to heaven. Intelligent beings, professed followers of Christ, are absorbed in the acquirement of worldly possessions or the enjoyment of earthly pleasures. Money, time, and strength are sacrificed for display and self-indulgence; but few are the moments devoted to prayer, to the searching of the Scriptures, to humiliation of soul and confession of sin.” GC 487

What does Satan do to distract minds away from God's truth?

What did Satan offer Jesus and millions today?

Offer “power and glory”...**Luke 4:5-7**

5 And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

6 And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

7 If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine..

Satan’s tactics revealed in the parable of the seed and soil...

Luke 8:12-14

12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

Satan will take away the truth when our minds are on self and the things of this world. When those who are allured by Satan’s promises of riches and pleasures of this life will be distracted away from Bible truth.

“Satan invents unnumbered schemes to occupy our minds, that they may not dwell upon the very work with which we ought to be best acquainted. The archdeceiver hates the great truths that bring to view an atoning sacrifice and an all-powerful mediator. He knows that with him everything depends on his diverting minds from Jesus and His truth.” GC 488

“Satan has devised a multitude of ways in which to keep men from serving God. He has invented sports and games, into which men enter with such intensity that one would suppose a crown of life was to reward the winner. At the horse races and football matches, which are attended by thousands and thousands of people, lives for which Christ shed His blood are thrown away. Review and Herald, September 10, 1901, “*No Other God’s Before Me*”, Ellen White

“The powers of Satan are at work to keep minds diverted from eternal realities. The enemy has arranged matters to suit his own purposes. Worldly business, sports, the fashions of the day --these things occupy the minds of men and women. Amusements and unprofitable reading spoil the judgment.” Testimonies For the Church Vol 9, p. 43

What should God’s honest faithful servants doing in the hour of judgment?**Luke 21:36**

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

We cannot allow Satan to distract us away from God’s truth. The work of Christ as our High Priest, the sanctuary message and investigative judgment should be deeply studied and understood by the faithful. Daily study, prayer, forsaking sin, and doing the will of God will keep you faithful as you abide in Christ.

“We are now living in the great day of atonement. In the typical service, while the high priest was making the atonement for Israel, all were required to afflict their souls by repentance of sin and humiliation before the Lord, lest they be cut off from among the people. In like manner, all who would have their names retained in

the book of life should now, in the few remaining days of their probation, afflict their souls before God by sorrow for sin and true repentance. There must be deep, faithful searching of heart. The light, frivolous spirit indulged by so many professed Christians must be put away.” GC 489-490

We must closely examine ourselves in relation to the Bible and the character of Jesus Christ. This is a serious work of reflection that we all must do individually. Is my life totally hid in Christ? Have I confessed and forsaken ALL sin and worldliness out of my life? Have I created an atmosphere of truth for me and my family? Have I placed ALL my time, talents, and money in the hands of Jesus? Does my actions reveal that I truly believe that Jesus’ coming is extremely soon?

What will Jesus say at the close of the investigative judgment when He has made His final decision?

Revelation 22:11

11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

“The righteous and the wicked will still be living upon the earth in their mortal state--men will be planting and building, eating and drinking, all unconscious that the final, irrevocable decision has been pronounced in the sanctuary above. Before the Flood, after Noah entered the ark, God shut him in and shut the ungodly out; but for seven days the people, knowing not that their doom was fixed, continued their careless, pleasure-loving life and mocked the warnings of impending judgment. "So," says the Saviour, "shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matthew 24:39. Silently, unnoticed as the midnight thief, will come the decisive hour which marks the fixing of every man's destiny, the final withdrawal of mercy's offer to guilty men.” GC 491

Endure, don’t be allured away from the truth. What will you be doing when God pronounces your judgment in the end. This is not the time to allured and distracted by the entertainment and amusements of this world. We must stay firm on the platform of truth. Remember we are on the battleground, not a playground. We must fight for TRUTH and there will be great resistance but we must remain faithful. DO NOT look to others as your standard in this fight of faith. Remember the great number of professed Christian will try to allure you on the “Carnival” cruise ship full of amusements and pleasures that please the flesh. Stay of the battleship of truth. Amen....

We are living at the end of the judgment. Are you ready? Are you ready? You must be ready NOW. You do not know the day in which you name will go before the judgment seat of God. Based on the rapid fulfillment of Bible prophecy that day can be any day now.

Appeal...

“ ‘Watch ye therefore: . . . lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping.’ Mark 13:35, 36. Perilous is the condition of those who, growing weary of their watch, turn to the attractions of the world. While the man of business is absorbed in the pursuit of gain, while the pleasure lover is seeking indulgence, while the daughter of fashion is arranging her adornments--it may be in that hour the Judge of all the earth will pronounce the sentence: ‘Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.’ Daniel 5:27.” GC 491