

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 14

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Created for use as discipleship material for older children to adults

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 14: Jesus the Son: He Is Judge and Advocate

Scriptures:

Matthew 10:32-42; Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:26-29; Acts 10:40-43; I Corinthians 4:4-5; Hebrews 2:2-3; I John 2:1

Lesson Goals:

To assist the learner to know that there is a judgment after this life at which time they will face God.
To assist the learner to know that Jesus is the one who will be the judge.
To assist the learner to know that Jesus Christ will also be their advocate in the final judgment.

Scripture Memory:

Sooner or later we'll all have to face God, regardless of our conditions. We will appear before Christ and take what's coming to us as a result of our actions, either good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10-The Message)

The Lesson:

There are courts so that people can get problems solved and allow juries to provide justice for those who are wronged. If the courts work as they should, the truth will come out. That happens best when there is a good judge and when the people on trial have a good lawyer, or advocate. The Bible tells us that someday all of us will stand before God to be judged. We will have to testify about how we lived our lives...both the good and the bad. It is really good to know that when it happens, Jesus will be our judge and our lawyer.

The Bible says, in Acts 17:30-31 that God has set a day, at which time Jesus will judge all the people of the earth. He will do this at God's instruction and He will do it with all fairness. Jesus will make no mistakes in His judgment. No witnesses will be called, because He will know everything about what we have done, and will judge us based on our own activities. The Bible tells us that we will be judged based on what we did when we were offered the free gift of salvation.

When we stand before God and His Son, Jesus Christ, the question will be, "What did you do about accepting Christ as your Savior?" The question will focus not on what we say we did, but on what we actually did that proves that our life changed when Jesus became our Savior and Lord. Either you accepted Jesus as Lord of your life or you didn't. And if you did, you were obedient to Him. Those who love Jesus, obey Him. (John 14:21) The Bible does tell us that when Jesus convenes the court, or calls it into session, all the real stuff about our lives will be like an open book, and that not only Jesus, but everyone else will see how we behaved as God's children. Paul, the apostle, told Timothy, his young friend, "All that's left (for Paul) is the shouting – God's applause! Depend on it. He's an honest judge. He'll do right not only by me, but by everyone eager for his coming." (II Timothy 4:8 – The Message)

There is another thing about judgment. When we are judged, we have the best advocate, like a lawyer, that there could possibly be. Jesus is not only our judge, He is also our advocate. Acts 2:16 says that our judgment is "through Jesus." In Revelation 3:5, Jesus promises **that for those who are His children**, He will confess our names before God the Father and all the angels. With Jesus standing up for us, we can't be mistaken for those who don't confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

Sometimes courts here on earth make mistakes. People are condemned and sentenced to punishment that they don't deserve. That can happen because a mistake was made by the judge in applying the law. It can sometimes happen because someone gave false testimony...they lied, or the witness was mistaken about what they saw or heard.

But, that's not going to happen in God's judgment. We have Jesus as our judge. Jesus loved us enough that He came to earth to live and then die for our sins. Jesus made it possible for us to be right with

God. Jesus, God's only Son, is also the one who stands up for us and tells God that we are His. Isaiah 53:12 says that Jesus bore our sins and makes intercession for all whose sin He forgave. When Jesus intercedes for us, He is our advocate. There is just no way that there could be any mistakes in that judgment.

Life Application:

“Sooner or later we'll all have to face God, regardless of our conditions. We will appear before Christ and take what's coming to us as a result of our actions, either good or bad.” (2 Corinthians 5:10-The Message) God appointed Jesus as Judge. There could be no one more fair or just. Jesus' judgment cannot be corrupted. Truthfully, we all deserve judgment for our own sin. We deserve the death penalty. (Romans 6:23) But God loved us all so much, that He sent His one and only Son. “Christ didn't have any sin. But God made him become sin for us. So we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us.” (2 Corinthians 5:21) Our Judge gave Himself as the punishment for our sin. But salvation is not automatic, happening to everyone just because Jesus offered Himself. God loved us all so much, that He sent His one and only Son. Whoever **believes in Him** will not perish but have eternal life. One day He will judge, but it is through His name that everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins. (Acts 10:42-43) The choice is ours. When we stand before God and His Son, Jesus Christ, the question will be, “What did you do about accepting Christ as your Savior?” The question will focus not on what we say we did, but on what we actually did that proves that our life changed when Jesus became our Savior and Lord.

Either you have accepted Jesus as Lord of your life or you haven't. If you haven't, what are you waiting for? We don't know how much longer we have. None of us is promised tomorrow. Won't you accept God's great gift of salvation today?

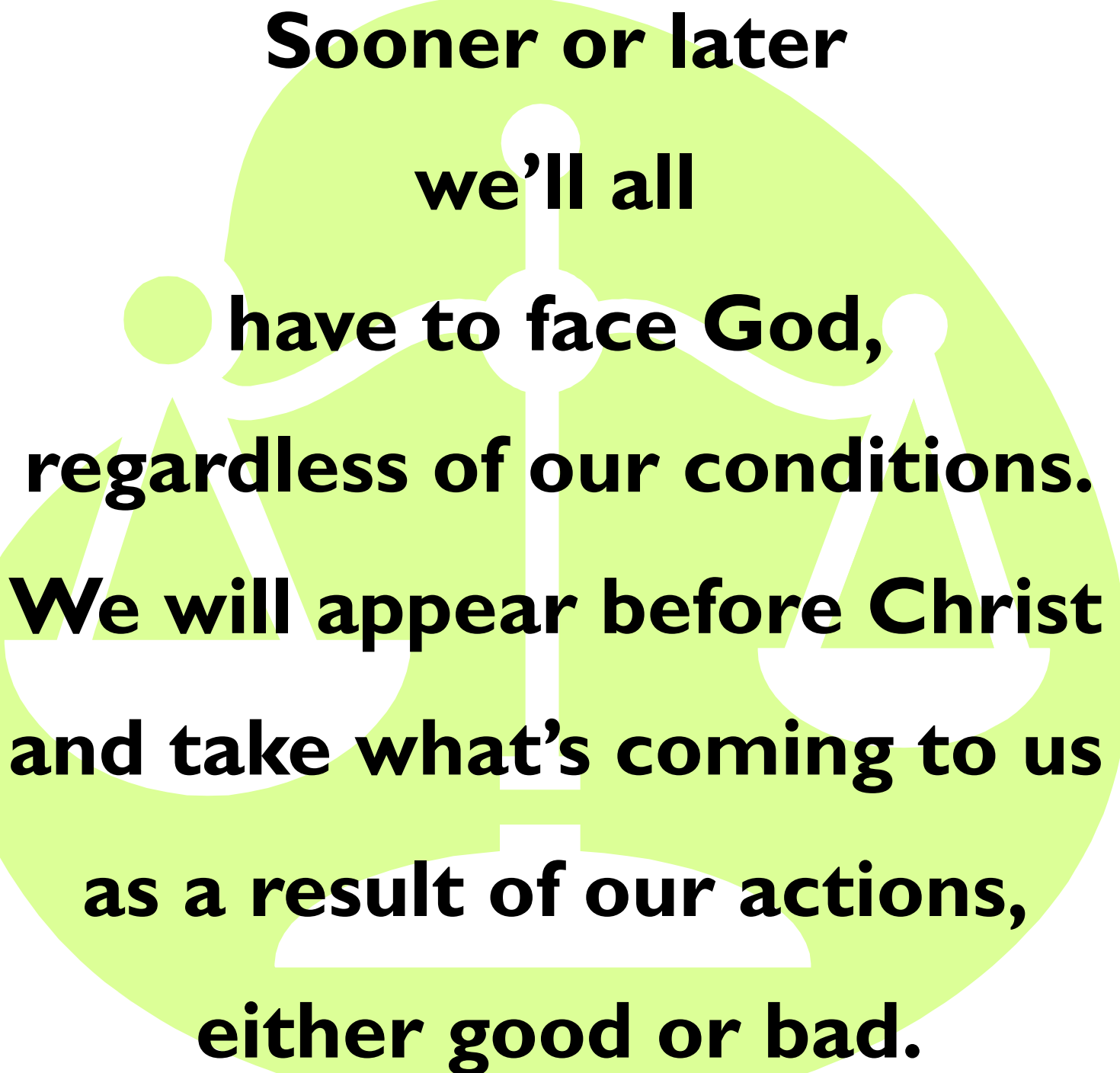
And if you have accepted that gift, are you showing your love for Him through your obedience? Do you know that one day, you will stand before Jesus, your Lord and Savior? That thought may be exciting for you or it may be a little scary. But do you also know, that as a believer, you have an advocate? Jesus is your Advocate. He pleads your case before the Father. He intercedes, or steps in, for you with God. (1 John 2:1) He took the punishment for your sin. Your sin has been paid for. You have been bought for God with a great price! Are you aware of the many around you who still don't know about God's great gift of salvation? The Bible tells us that, “The Lord is not slow about His promise [to return], as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9) Won't you go and tell them?



Planning for Lesson 15
Jesus the Son: He is
Savior



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Before you begin, offer a reward for some particular behavior during Bible Study. For example, offer an ice cream treat for those who help clean up after, or for those who listen without talking out of turn. Proceed with your study time as usual, being sure to remember who has earned the offered reward. As you begin rewarding obedient students, review the verse. Discuss the importance of personal choices and the consequences.
- ◆ Set up your Bible study area like a courtroom. Dress in a black robe. Conduct a makeshift court session to begin class. Then move into the lesson.
- ◆ Jesus is our Advocate. He intercedes on our behalf before the Father. Reread 1 John 2:1 and look at Hebrews 2:18, as well. Encourage your students to be advocates for those around them. Remind them that they can come to the aid of, or stand up for, those who are shy or scared. They can pray to God for them and they can share the good news of God's great salvation!
- ◆ Make an acrostic with the word "advocate." Describe the word using its letters.
- ◆ Read Psalm 51 and discuss.
- ◆ Read Matthew 25:31-46. Discuss sheep and goats. Stress that it is not the works that save us, rather our works should come from a valid relationship with Jesus Christ. (John 14:21)
- ◆ **Dig Deeper:** The Greek word used for Advocate in 1 John 2:1 is *parakletos*. *Parakletos* denotes one who defends another, one who argues in another's favor. This is also the word used for the Holy Spirit in John 14-16. Discuss Jesus' role as an advocate for us now. Compare that information with the role of the Holy Spirit as mentioned in John 14:16, 15:26, and 16:7. We have a helper, an advocate.
- ◆ **Dig Deeper Still:** Read the fifth chapter of Daniel. This chapter describes a king opposed to God. This king gives a party. He calls for the sacred instruments that were taken from the Jewish Temple and uses them in the worship of other gods. God's judgment is quick. Belshazzar's life is weighed and found lacking. Provide a picture of a set of scales to class, preferably the older kind that weigh one thing against another. Talk about weights and balances and the fairness of it. Then discuss our future judgment and what we will be weighed against.



**Sooner or later
we'll all
have to face God,
regardless of our conditions.
We will appear before Christ
and take what's coming to us
as a result of our actions,
either good or bad.**

2 Corinthians 5:10

(The Message)

Jesus is our

JUDGE

and

ADVOCATE

Word Search



B	A	G	R	S	A	D	A	B	A
E	C	C	A	D	V	D	L	D	T
L	I	E	C	O	V	D	A	R	P
E	A	V	S	O	P	T	W	Y	E
S	A	I	C	G	D	S	Y	V	C
U	S	A	V	I	O	R	E	U	C
S	T	U	G	D	E	I	R	O	A
E	U	A	C	C	L	A	W	Y	A
J	U	D	G	E	I	V	R	U	G
D	A	V	B	I	D	A	J	E	S

judge

bad

advocate

believe

lawyer

good

Jesus

accept

Savior

Word Search



B	A	G	R	S	A	D	A	B	A
E	C	C	A	D	V	D	L	D	T
L	I	E	C	O	V	D	A	R	P
E	A	V	S	O	P	T	W	Y	E
S	A	I	C	G	D	S	Y	V	C
U	S	A	V	I	O	R	E	U	C
S	T	U	G	D	E	I	R	O	A
E	U	A	C	C	L	A	W	Y	A
J	U	D	G	E	I	V	R	U	G
D	A	V	B	I	D	A	J	E	S

judge

bad

advocate

believe

lawyer

good

Jesus

accept

Savior