Basic Christian Doctrines Bible Study

"Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment."
Hebrews 6:1-2 NIV

Lesson Eight – Eternal Judgment

1. What is eternal judgment?

   a) The Bible speaks of a time when everyone who has ever lived will be called before the throne of God. Each of us will give an account of our lives to God. Those who are truly believers will enter into eternal life with Jesus Christ in heaven. The rest will enter into eternal condemnation (damnation) in the lake of fire.

   "Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. … If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:11-12, 15 NIV

   "[Jesus speaking] But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned." Matthew 12:36-37 NIV

   "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad." 2 Corinthians 5:10 (See Romans 14:9-12 as well.)

   "In hell, where he was in torment …" Luke 16:23 NIV

2. How will God judge us?

   a) Romans 1:16 - 2:16 tells how God will judge mankind – apart from the law, under the law or under grace (for Christians). God is looking for obedience not just lip service. Every person on the earth is without excuse because the creation testifies to God's existence.

   b) As born-again Christians, we will be judged for rewards, not for punishment.

   "… we [Christians] will have confidence on the day of judgment …" 1 John 4:17 NIV

   "God 'will give to each person according to what he has done.' To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger." Romans 2:6-8 NIV (Psalm 62:12 and Proverbs 24:12 are quoted.)

   "Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." Hebrews 9:27-28 NIV