

WHERE SHOULD JUDGMENT BEGIN?

I PETER 4:17-19

Introduction:

- A. We should not believe that all judgment is future.
 - 1. We should judge ourselves daily.
 - 2. If we judge ourselves, we would not be judged.

- B. Peter writes that it is time for judgment to begin. v17
 - 1. "for the time is come that judgment must begin."
 - 2. judgment = krima = the result of a judicial procedure, the pronouncing of a sentence, unfavorable to those concerned.

- C. Where is judgment to begin?
 - 1. "at the house of God."
 - 2. This is the carrying out of a sentence.
 - 3. Doesn't begin at the prisons, at Hollywood, bars, dives, juke joints.

I. WHY MUST IT BEGIN AT THE HOUSE OF GOD?

- A. These are God's people.
 - 1. Have been born again.
 - 2. We would expect our fathers to spank us first.

- B. This is God's House.
 - 1. We expect Him to clean here first.

- C. This is God's business.
 - 1. People have been given a commission.
 - 2. God is concerned about His work being done.

II. TWO QUESTIONS FOR UNBELIEVERS.

- A. "if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

1. If God deals severely with His children, how much worse will it be for the lost?
 2. The sinners could look at the suffering of these people and see a preview of how God deals with sin.
 3. "obey not the gospel" = do not give credence to God's message.
- B. "And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"
1. If the saved, the upright, the born again, experience suffering, what will the godless have?
 2. The suffering of Lazarus seemed unbearable, but think of the Rich man in Hell! Luke 16.

III. HOW TO HANDLE SUFFERING, THE BOTTOM LINE. V19

- A. The one qualification.
1. "wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God."
 2. Not as evildoers or busybodies.
- B. The first thing to do.
1. "commit the keeping of their souls, unto a faithful creator."
 2. commit = to pursue a course of action.
 3. keep = leaving your case in God's hand, He is faithful.
- C. The second thing to do.
1. "and persevere in doing right."
 2. This is not a doing of nothing, but a doing of right things.