

## Bible Reasons Why You Should Be a Seventh-day Adventist

### 8. THE JUDGMENT

In an effort to prove that there is no judgment for the righteous, some statements are made which must appear strange to Bible students. For instance, John 5:24 is quoted from the Revised Version, where the word "judgment" is used instead of "condemnation" as in the common version. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that hears My word, and believes on Him that sent Me, bath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation ["judgment," A.R.V.1; but is passed from death unto life." But the Bible teaches that all will be judged. "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he bath done,, whether it be good or bad." 2 Cor. 5:10. For the "saved," says Mr. Jones, this appearance is for an appraisal of their "service" and "not their sins"; but the text says that it concerns what has been done "whether it be good or bad." Bad doing is surely sin.

In comparing these two texts let no one jump at the conclusion that the Bible contradicts itself. This inspired statement as well as many others that foretell the future judgment of all mankind, does not contradict statements such as John 5:24, in which evidently the thought is that those who accept Christ and hold fast their profession will not be condemned in the final judgment. There surely is no contradiction between the words of Jesus that "God sent not His Son into the world to condemn ["judge," A.R.V.] the world" (John 3:17), and the statement of Peter that Jesus is "ordained of God to be the Judge of the living and the dead" (Acts 10:42, A.R.V.).

Reference has already been made to Daniel's vision of the judgment scene and the presence of millions of heavenly beings when "the books were opened." Dan. 7:9, 10. John on Patmos likewise had a view of the judgment. "I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and 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." Rev. 20:12. In that book of life are recorded the names of all who have accepted Christ. (Phil. 4:3.) The names of those who hold fast their profession and are over comers will be retained in that book, while others will be blotted out. (Rev. 3:5.) Dear reader, is your name written there? "Be thou faithful unto death," and God 'I will give thee a crown of life." Rev. 2:10.

The Bible clearly teaches that God appointed a specific future time for the judgment. "He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness." Acts 17:31. The beginning of that great day of judgment was at the end of the twenty-three hundred years, in AD. 1844. At that time a special message began to go to the world: "Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come." And just after this judgment-hour message, in the moving picture of future events, John beheld the Son of man coming to reap the harvest of the earth. (Rev. 14:6-16.)