

## Judgment

Tomorrow is Memorial Day. Here is a reminder of its meaning from the website [military.com](http://military.com):

“Observed the last Monday in May, Memorial Day honors those who lost their lives while in service to the United States during peace and war.

“Memorial Day is not a celebration but a solemn day to reflect on veterans and military personnel who are deceased.

“Memorial Day, observed on the last Monday of May, is a day to honor members of the military who were killed in service, both during deployments overseas or in training and service in the U.S. Across the country, Americans spend the day visiting cemeteries, attending Memorial Day events and otherwise honoring those who lost their lives in service to the country. The day also traditionally marks the first unofficial day of summer.

“Memorial Day is a day to honor the sacrifice and loss of members of the military who died in service. Veterans Day, on the other hand, is a day to honor the service of any man or woman who has served in the U.S. military.<sup>1</sup>”

Here is some history of this federal holiday from [history.com](http://history.com):

“On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. “The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land,” he proclaimed.”

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.military.com/memorial-day/everything-you-need-know-about-memorial-day.html>

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“The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn’t the anniversary of any particular battle.<sup>2</sup>”

Now a brief comment about Israel. It is my opinion that as we get closer to the Tribulation (and hence even closer to the Rapture for believers today) that certain things will happen.

1. Already, some countries are recognizing a Palestinian state. Per the Jerusalem Post, “Ireland, Spain, and Norway announced their recognition of Palestine as a state on Wednesday morning, a move that will likely only take full effect on May 28.<sup>3</sup>” These are just the latest to recognize the Palestinian state.

“As of May 2024, the State of Palestine is recognized as a sovereign state by 143 of the 193 member states of the United Nations. It has been a non-member observer state of the United Nations General Assembly since November 2012.<sup>4</sup>”

2. It is my opinion that the Palestinians will achieve statehood. Essentially, from the United Nations perspective, it already has unofficially.
3. It is my opinion that a two-state solution will be imposed on Israel and may even involve giving the Palestinians addition land to include land that once was historically occupied by the Philistines.
4. Biblically, there will be a Jewish temple built on the temple mount. Per Wikipedia, “According to dispensationalist theologians, such as Hal Lindsey and Tim LaHaye, the Third Temple will be rebuilt when the Antichrist, often identified as the political leader of a

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2 <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/memorial-day-history>

3 <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-802144>

4 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International\\_recognition\\_of\\_the\\_State\\_of\\_Palestine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_recognition_of_the_State_of_Palestine). On this website, there is a table with all the nations which have recognized Palestine and the dates they recognized it.

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trans-national alliance similar to the European Union or the United Nations, secures a peace treaty between the modern nation of Israel and its neighbours following a global war. The Antichrist later uses the temple as a venue for proclaiming himself as God and the long-awaited Messiah, demanding worship from humanity.<sup>5</sup>” If they are right, then there is yet a World War III on the horizon. From their perspective, it is not “if” but “when.” And do not forget that the Tribulation will be a time of great suffering for the nation Israel.

**Matthew 24:21 For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.**

**Matthew 24:22 Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.**

Now let us start a journey through Romans chapter 2.

**Romans 2:1 Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.**

**Judgment, judge, condemn, judge.** Wow! In one verse we have four judgments!

**Therefore.** This is a conclusion based upon the argument in the last part of Romans chapter 1. The first word in the Greek is, according to Herman, an adversative conjunction. It is drawing a conclusion by

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<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third\\_Temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Temple)

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contrasting the immoral crowd described at the end of chapter 1 with the self-righteous moral crowd who judge those who have rejected God's righteous standard. It might be OK to translate this as "on the other hand" or something like that. That is not literal, but it catches the contrast better than "therefore." But, by judging, these people have broken God's righteous standard. It is God's prerogative to judge in the arena of righteousness, not man's. Only God has standing in this court.

Standing. In a court case, a person cannot bring a charge against someone else unless they have standing, that is, unless they have been harmed in some way. But here we are talking about God's righteousness. It is God's righteousness that has been attacked. So now the self-righteous moral man attacks God's righteous standard by attempting to enforce it. So at the basic level, the self-righteous moral man is doing the same thing as those who have rejected God's standard and done unspeakable things.

They have usurped God's position by saying judging an unrighteous deed. This is just doing what Satan keeps trying to do. But at one point, he was an anointed cherub and guardian of God's righteousness. Yet he was the first and worst offender of God's righteousness.

Let us take a short detour back to our tenses/phases of salvation chart.

## Three Tenses of Salvation

Phase	Justification	<u>Sanctification</u>	Glorification
Tense	Past	<u>Present</u>	Future
Saved from sin's:	Penalty	<u>Power</u>	Presence
Scripture	Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5	<u>Philip 2:12</u>	Rom 5:10

### Three Tenses of Salvation<sup>6</sup>

We keep returning to this chart. It is important to keep in mind the three “tenses” of salvation. They were explained in a previous lesson.

But, the judgments associated with each phase are not on the chart. It is important to point these out.

**Phase 1**, Justification, requires God to judge the sins of the world. God judged sin at the cross.

**Romans 3:21** But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

**Romans 3:22** even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction;

<sup>6</sup> <https://slbc.org/sermon/soteriology-001/>

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**Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

**Romans 3:24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;**

**Romans 3:25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation (satisfaction) in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;**

**Romans 3:26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

**Isaiah 53:4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.**

**Isaiah 53:5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.**

**Phase 2, Sanctification, depends upon the believer judging himself/herself to identify any sin in the life and return to walking by**

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faith. We are not sanctified by sinning. We are sanctified by walking in the power of the Holy Spirit by faith.

**Romans 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,**

**Romans 6:13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.**

**Romans 6:14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**

**1 Corinthians 11:31 But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.**

**1 Corinthians 11:32 But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.**

In **phase 3** we are glorified after the Judgment Seat of Christ where each believer is judged according to the time spent walking by faith. The time spent outside of the filling of the Holy Spirit will be judged and burned.

**Romans 14:10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.**

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**Romans 14:11** For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God.”

**Romans 14:12** So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

**Romans 14:13** Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother’s way.

**2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

For unbelievers only, there is the Great White Throne Judgment.

**Revelation 20:11** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

**Revelation 20:12** And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

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**Revelation 20:13** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

**Revelation 20:14** Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

**Revelation 20:15** And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Now back to God's righteousness.

Satan, as the "covering" cherub was to guard God's righteousness. But Satan rebelled and decided he wanted to be like God. But by doing so he attacked God's righteousness. Those that judge the sins of others are doing the same thing that Satan is doing.

Just because they are doing this mentally and verbally does not mean this is a sin any less heinous than the sins of those who are committing overt sins.

Mental murder is a sin.

**Matthew 5:21** "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.'

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**Matthew 5:22** But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell.

**Matthew 15:18** But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.

**Matthew 15:19** For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

**James 2:10** For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all.

Remember the sins that God "hates:"

**Proverbs 6:16** There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

**Proverbs 6:17** Haughty eyes, a lying tongue,  
And hands that shed innocent blood,

**Proverbs 6:18** A heart that devises wicked plans,  
Feet that run rapidly to evil,

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**Proverbs 6:19 A false witness who utters lies,  
And one who spreads strife among brothers.**

This list does not contain many of the sins that are on some Christian lists. And many are mental attitude sins. Sins of thought.

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**Excuse.** Same word used in Romans chapter 1 verse 20 of the person who sees that God exists from general revelation and then rejects God. He has no excuse. It provides a link from here to there. So here the persons that have special revelation from the Torah and the Prophets and the Writings (Tanakh) who sin by judging, are rejecting God's standard. They also are without excuse.

**Everyone.** Here is another of Paul's "all." God's righteousness is absolute. There is no escape. Either you are filled by the Holy Spirit and produce righteousness because He produces the righteousness in you, or you produce sin and/or human righteousness (not good either). Paul is more subtle than John in his contrasts. John uses light and dark. Stark contrasts. Here Paul uses the word "all" to separate people into the "all who do" and "all who don't." Nothing in between. God's perspective is filled with absolutes.

**Romans 2:2 And we know that the judgment of  
God rightly falls upon those who practice  
such things.**

Interesting comment by Herman concerning "judgment" in verses 1 and 2. "So we have in verse 1 judgment by man; in verse 2 the judgment of God. So we have two judgments in contrast with each other." Stark contrasts.

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**Romans 2:3 But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same *yourself*, that you will escape the judgment of God?**

**Romans 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?**

**Or.** Another contrast. In the Greek you have literally “the judgment of the God or the riches of the kindness of Him.” You have a choice.

**Leads you to repentance.** Remember I mentioned last week that sometimes when you are sinning, God does not impose suffering on you but some kind of a blessing that gets your attention. And we know that God has patience with the human race, waiting for some to have a change of mind (repentance) and get with God’s plan.