

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Video Lecture Series

by Rev. William Macleod

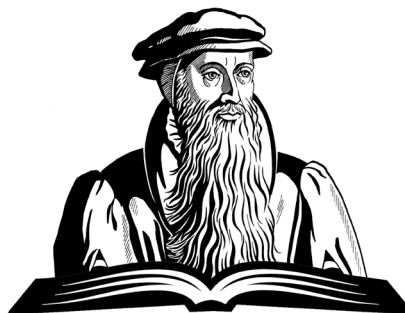
STUDY GUIDE

Module 7:

**ESCHATOLOGY—
THE DOCTRINE OF LAST THINGS**

Lecture 8:

**THE DOCTRINE OF
THE JUDGMENT**



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

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Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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STUDY GUIDE

Module 7

Eschatology—the Doctrine of Last Things

1. Introduction to Eschatology
2. The Doctrine of Death
3. Events Leading to the Second Coming
4. Interpreting the Book of Revelation
5. The Jews
6. Dispensational Premillenarianism
7. The Second Coming and the Resurrection
- 8. The Doctrine of the Judgment**
9. The Doctrine of Hell
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Module 7:

Eschatology—The Doctrine of Last Things

Lecture 8:

The Doctrine of the Judgment

Introduction

Following the resurrection comes the Final Judgment. Historical Millennialists and Dispensationalists erroneously have several resurrections and several Judgments. Dispensationalists, for example, have a judgment of the saints at the rapture, and then, seven years later, when Jesus returns again, a judgment of the Jews who were converted during the seven year period of the tribulation. They also have a judgment of the nations, which is separate, and they have the judgment of the great white throne on the last day following the millennium. The Bible, however, describes only one Judgment Day, and it comes at the end of world history.

Theme: *The Doctrine of the Judgment.*

I. General Introduction

1. There is only one Judgment Day in the Bible, at the end of the world.
 - a. When an individual dies, they go either to heaven or hell.
 - b. An individual's destiny is fixed at the moment he dies.
2. The purpose of the Judgment Day.
 - a. To reveal God's justice and mercy.
 - b. To demonstrate the righteousness of the righteous, and the wickedness of the wicked.
 - c. God's people will be openly acknowledged and acquitted.
3. John received a revelation of what will happen at the end of the world (Revelation 20:11–15).
 - a. A great falling away from the faith.
 - b. Satan is loosed, will gather forces to persecute and destroy the church.
 - c. The camp of God's people, the church, will be surrounded.

- d. God sends fire from heaven and burns up the enemies of God's people.
- e. Satan is taken and cast into the lake of fire.
- f. A great white throne appears.
- g. Heaven and earth flee from the face of Christ.
- h. The dead are raised and stand before God.
- i. The books are opened.

Questions:

1. How do we know from Scripture that when an individual dies, they go either to heaven or to hell? How do we know their destiny is fixed at the moment he dies?

2. What is the purpose of the Judgment Day? What will happen to the wicked? What will happen to God's people?

3. What events will occur on the Judgment Day?

II. The Judgment

- 1. The great white throne is set up.
 - a. Above every other throne.
 - b. It is God's throne.
 - c. White, means all will receive justice.
 - d. It is pure, justice will be perfect.
 - e. There is no bribery or corruption, no preferential treatment.

- f. God is no respecter of persons.
- 2. Christ sits on the throne and judges the world.
- 3. The dead small and great stand before God.
 - a. All the dead are delivered up from the earth and the sea.
 - b. Christians must also appear before God's Judgment Seat to give an account.
- 4. The books are opened, with a complete record of our lives.
 - a. All are judged according to the standard of the law of God.
- 5. The book of life is opened.
 - b. Contains the names of God's elect people.

Questions

1. What is symbolized in John's vision of "the great white throne"?

2. Who is it that will judge the world? Will anyone be able to complain or make an excuse for their sins? Why is the identity of the Judge a great encouragement to Christians?

3. Who will be judged at the Judgment Day? Will Christians also have to give an account?

4. What is the standard that will be used for judgment at the great white throne?

5. What books will be opened on the Judgment Day?

III. The Book of Life

1. A register of the names of those who will receive eternal life.
2. Referenced in both the Old and the New Testaments.
3. The names of God's elect people are recorded in the Book of Life.
 - a. Only God knows who they are.
 - b. Revelation 22 warns of names being removed.
4. We shall all be judged by our works on the Judgment Day.

Questions:

1. What is the Book of Life? How is it referred to in the Old Testament and the New Testament?

2. Whose names are written in the Book of Life? How does it apply to the lives of Christians?

3. How should we understand the warning in Revelation 22 that some names will be removed from the Book of Life? Can salvation be lost?

4. How are we to understand that we are justified by faith in this life, but we will be justified by works on the Judgment Day?

IV. The Judgment Day

1. The Lord Jesus returns to judge the world: Matthew 25, verses 35 to 46.
 - a. He will separate the saved and the unsaved, like sheep and goats.
 - b. The saved are revealed by their good works.
2. Rewards and punishment.
 - a. There will be varying degrees of reward in heaven.
 - b. There will be different degrees of punishment in hell.
 - c. “Many are called, but few chosen”—Matthew 20:13 to 16.
 - d. Other parables that teach degrees of reward in heaven.
3. Promised rewards give incentive to believers.
4. Believers sins will be revealed, but they will not be punished.
5. Believers will have a role in the judgment.
 - a. Judge angels and the world.

Questions:

1. How does Jesus explain the great separation on Judgment Day? What parables does he use?

2. What is the basis for judgment on the last day? What does that tell us about how our faith should be manifest by our works?

3. Can a person’s good works cancel out their evil works on the Judgment Day? Will the believer’s sins be revealed? Will the believer be punished for their sins?

4. How do we know there will be varying degrees of reward in heaven for believers? Will there also be different degrees of punishment in hell?

5. How are we to understand the Lord Jesus' parable in Matthew 20:1–16?

6. What other parables teach us about varying degrees of reward in heaven for believers?

7. How are the promised rewards in heaven meant to be an incentive to Christians in this life?

8. Will the sins of God's people be revealed at the Judgment Day? How will this encourage the song of the redeemed?

9. What role will Christians play in the final judgment?

V. Self-Reflection

Please read and meditate on Matthew chapter 25. The parables in this chapter give us three tests of whether we are truly the Lord's people. These are the tests that Christ will apply to you on the Judgment Day. We should use them to judge ourselves now.

1. Are you prepared by God's Spirit to endure for a long wait before Christ returns?
2. Are you actively serving Christ now by taking the personal and material resources he has given you and employing them in your vocation for his glory?
3. Are you responding with compassionate action to the needs of other Christians around you, as members of one family in Christ?
