



Pastor, as a born-again believer I'm concerned that this doctrine of the 'investigative judgement' takes away my assurance of salvation.

I really need to feel secure and **know** that I am going to inherit eternal life in Heaven.

What especially concerns me, is that if my works don't measure up to God's standard, then my salvation is threatened!

The Gospel says Jesus died for my forgiveness. Surely that's enough for salvation?

Yes, sister, as a born-again believer you are justified. However, our salvation (**Justification**) needs to be preserved by our daily communication and confession (**Sanctification**) with Jesus, our advocate.

Paul puts it so well in Romans 6:1-2: "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?"

Remember, the born-again Christian is a **justified** sinner; therefore our recollection of the fact has to be renewed daily; we must walk as God's new creation. Eph. 2:10 says: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Also, 1 John 1:9 says: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

"Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and obey it."
(Luke 11:28)

Then the Bible tells us very clearly that believers are going to be judged before the Second Coming. If you check 2 Cor. 5:10, you will note that Paul is specifically writing to believers (i.e., Church members):

'For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.'

So every born-again believer will be judged before the Second Coming of Jesus.

What Paul is describing in 2 Cor. 5:10 is the (pre-advent)

Investigative Judgement.

This is only for those who have ever professed His name, and there's a reason for that: When Jesus comes, He is going to take the faithful ones to Heaven, but before He takes them there, He has to do the Judgement.

But Pastor, why does God need an investigative judgement before the Second Coming? He is God, after all, so doesn't He already know who is going to be saved and who is going to be lost?

Remember, God is open and fair; the judgement is for all to see. That's why it's **investigative** and **democratic**. It's an open court. There is nothing to hide, and as believers we know Jesus is our advocate and defender.

In the great controversy between God and Satan, Lucifer challenged the goodness of God, saying that God was an arbitrary dictator and a vindictive judge. He rebelled against God and was cast out of Heaven.

The Investigative Judgement does not exist because God doesn't know who is saved or lost. Its purpose is to reveal before a waiting world and a watching universe that, in every single life, God reached out in loving kindness and compassion to save them for His kingdom.

Yet in the church there are good and bad fish.

In one of His parables Jesus tells the story of the fishermen and their dragnet. (Read it in Matthew 13:47-50.) The boat symbolises the church, while the fish (we) get sorted out on the shore.

So, pastor, you are saying that there are some churchgoers who are not genuine believers?

Definitely, my dear! The Bible says in 2 Tim. 5: "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

Many will say to Me on that day: "Lord! Lord! Didn't we prophesy in Your Name? And do many mighty works in Your Name?"

And then I will declare to them: "I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who practise lawlessness."
(Matt. 7:22-23)

PLEASE REMEMBER:

The Investigative Judgement does not take away our assurance of salvation, as we remain and abide in Christ.

When we repent and confess our sins and trust in His promises, we have nothing to fear, because Jesus will be our defender (our advocate). Nevertheless, let me put it this way: while obedience is not a prerequisite for salvation, it is a requisite, because: "Faith without works is dead." James 2:26

When Paul spoke about the Judgement of God, it was in the future at that moment, yet Rev. 14:7 says: **"For the hour of His judgement has come."** This sums up what this tract is about.

Note: In the original Greek text the verb translated as **has come** is a so-called **aorist**. In Greek, the **aorist** indicates an action is past, it has already taken place or is in the process of taking place. It simply is.

This indicates that the hour of God's judgement has arrived, it currently exists. God's judgment is a present judgement.

This time, our time, is the hour of God's judgement.

Reading Daniel's prophecies (Daniel 8:14) together with Revelation, we clearly are in the Judgement Hour, at this very moment. I believe the Judgement Hour began in 1844, at the end of the period of 2 300 years (Daniel 8:14).

Now that may raise a question, so bear with me for the next few pages.

Of course there's clear mathematical proof of the starting date of the pre-advent Investigative Judgement: AD 1844 (check Tract 24).

This is not a strange conclusion to reach; other exegetists of different persuasions and denominations likewise believe Daniel is speaking about a judgement that began around this time.

The Roman Catholic author F Dusterwald for instance says: "Without question, the prophet Daniel here describes God's judgement..." (Die Weltreiche und das Gottesreich [1890], p 177)

In other words the Bible is not only true, but logical as well.

Yet there's another aspect of the Judgement, namely that whatever unfairness or unrighteousness, whatever challenges I had in my life, in the Judgement God will make all things right. God will explain that He had been there with me in the trials of life to give me hope.

Yet the Judgement says evil will be condemned, Satan will be defeated, and Christ will set all things right.

That's incredibly GOOD NEWS and I trust it encourages you!

The Judgement is revealed in two books, Daniel and Revelation. They are prophetically related.

In the book of Revelation Jesus says, through John that the hour of God's Judgement has come, but it doesn't tell us *when* the clock struck the hour, it doesn't tell us *when* the Judgement began.

However, if you check Daniel 7, 8 and 9, you will find the time line revealed. The history of salvation in Christ (Daniel 7) shows the vision of four beasts. Those four beasts represent four empires, their ten horns the rise of ten political powers. The little horn, which arises last and overwhelms the other horns, refers to a politico-religious power that will attempt to change God's law.

♦ This is discussed in Tract 26.

But then you have the opening scenes of the Judgement. Daniel is looking at what takes place on earth. He looks up and sees this judgement scene. This is good news to him, since the earthly powers that opposed God's plan and purpose and His people are destroyed. (Daniel 7:9-10)

♦ So in those two verses we see the opening of the Judgement that Revelation 14:7 and Revelation 21:2 speak about.

What about the timing of the Judgement? We find this revealed in Daniel 8:14. In Daniel 8:13 the angel asks a question, and Daniel points us to the Sanctuary.

At this time the politico-religious power has suppressed the truth about the Sanctuary; they've suppressed the truth about Jesus as our Sacrifice, our High Priest, our Redeemer, the One who intercedes for us.

And he said to me, "For 2 300 days, then shall the Sanctuary be cleansed." Daniel 8:14

You come to the end of this chapter and Daniel faints; read Daniel 8:27 and Daniel 9:24.

All of this is explained in Tract 24. Remember, the 490 years relate to the Jews!

So Gabriel returns to explain the vision to Daniel that he didn't understand: *"I was astonished by the vision, but no one understood it."* (Daniel 8:27)

All of this means we are **right now** living in the Judgement Hour, which started in 1844.

The Judgement Hour is the time when the truth of God's Word is to be restored to the entire world, a truth that goes to the ends of the world.

From both the book of Daniel and the book of Revelation we understand that this is **a time to be sure our hearts are right with God.**

So what are we to do then in the Judgement Hour? What is our responsibility?

To repent and to open our hearts to God, to be sure there is nothing between us and Jesus. This is our calling in the Judgement Hour.

To paraphrase James 1:22: "Get busy for the Lord."

In conclusion then, let me encourage you:

Satan is known as 'the Deceiver of the Brethren' (Rev. 12:10). He accuses us of our sins before God. Satan doesn't want God to extend grace and forgiveness to us, nor does he want us to receive God's grace.

However, the pre-advent Judgement is in favour of the 'justified' and 'sanctified' believer. Read Daniel 7:22: "... until the Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgement in favour of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom."

WONDERFUL NEWS FOR THE CHRISTIAN!

Dear friend!

Let me summarise my answer to our sister's worry: Salvation does not end in forgiveness only, because any attempt to deny obedience to God's laws makes Christ's death on the cross cheap and void. It amounts to claiming forgiveness without requiring obedience to God's Commandments.

When Jesus calls a lost soul, it is a call to discipleship. Each one of us has been given a talent. It is our responsibility to use what God has given us to bring Him glory and honour.

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"And he informed me, and talked with me, and said: "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand." Daniel 9:22