

Faith in the Face of Despair

Intro:

1 – The Despair of Injustice: (3:16-21)

A. A final judgment: (vs. 17)

1) OT: (Gen. 18:25; Ps. 96:3)

2) NT: Heb. 6:2; 9:27; Jn. 5:22, 27; Acts 17:31

3) Retributive judgment vs. Remunerative judgment

For unbelievers the last judgment will be a verdict rendered on what they have done (2 Thess. 1:6-10)

For believers the last judgment will be a verdict rendered on what they have done with grace (1 Cor. 3:12-14; Mt. 25:)

4) The only escape from final judgment is faith in Jesus who took this judgment for sinners (Rom. 5:8-9)

B. A present lesson: (vs. 18-21)

1) Verse 21 is not a question of ignorance. When you observe the animal like behavior of man, who acts like he really knows that his spirit will ascend to God – and to judgment.

2) Cf. Ecc 12:7

C . A repeat conclusion: (vs. 22)

2 – The Despair of Oppression: (4:1-3)

A. Solomon “sees” not only oppression but also the suffering, tears and lack of comfort of the oppressed.

Concluding thoughts: