



ENDGAME

Being Confident

#NPENDGAME

Week 4
4 of 5
November 27, 2016

Bottom Line: We are saved by grace, but judged by our works.

Icebreaker: When most people say the word “soul,” what do they mean? How is this similar to and different from the answers of followers of Jesus?

Key Verse: *Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?” Then I will tell them plainly, “I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers”* Matthew 7:21-23

These words from Jesus should be sobering for all of us. They teach a truth that many of us are uncomfortable dealing with: Some people will be surprised when they die and stand before the Lord. Not many people want to think about the judgment of God, but that does not stop it from being a reality. God’s judgment awaits all people who live. As Christians this should not scare us because we are safe in the Lord, but it should cause us pause.

How quickly do our lives align with the call of Jesus? If we are supposed to be like Him, how much or how little do our lives mirror His life? As His image bearers, we are supposed to live incarnationally and do the work that Jesus has left us to do. Part of that is sharing the gospel (Matthew 28:18-20), and part of that is serving others (Mark 10:45) and giving ourselves for the least of these (Matthew 25). If we cannot identify a consistent bent of our heart and attitude of service, we may need to ask ourselves the hard question, “Will I be surprised? Will my reunion with Christ be different than the one I am anticipating now?”

To be clear, serving and taking care of others does not earn us our standing before God, but they are important and necessary fruits of a life that has been changed by God. So when we think about our eternal destination in heaven, one confirmation we can have is the work we are doing here on earth. We will be seen and judged based on what we did and did not do, so we need to pursue Christ through works that point to our salvation.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight’s message, what stood out to you?

Dwight said there are two decisions we need to make: Accept Jesus Christ and live like Christ.

God asks us to build His kingdom and His people.

What do you expect your experience of standing before Jesus at the day of judgment to be like? What from Scripture gives you warrant for this expectation?

Where does Jesus teach that we should do kingdom work through serving Him?

LOOK IT OVER <<<

What are some reasons we don’t serve? Even though many of these may be legitimate, how can we overcome them?

Warnings found in Scripture about doing Jesus’ work are not meant to scare us, but to show us the serious nature of Jesus’ teaching and lordship. If you’re honest, do these things encourage you or scare you? Why?

Who do you know that upon standing before the throne of God will be truly frightened because they do not know Him? How could you make the effort to tell them about Jesus?

How has working through this series challenged you to think differently about the intersection of faith and works?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

1. What are some places that God may have gifted you to serve others and be about the work of the kingdom? Don't feel like you have to stay inside a box – get creative and expand your horizons and think of unexpected ways to serve God. What talents and abilities do you have? What do good works look like in your life? Think about these together.
2. Praise God for allowing us to partner with Him in service by going good works. Pray that we will embrace the impact of our actions. Pray that we would be filled with good works that demonstrate the genuineness of our faith and love for God and others.

EVALUATION/ACTION Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ.

Bottom Line: We are saved by grace, but judged by our works.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at newpointe.org/daily:

Day 1: Matthew 7:24-27

Day 2: Matthew 7:28-29

Day 3: Romans 4:2-5

Day 4: James 2:20-24

Day 5: Romans 14:10-12

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.

(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)