

Partial Judgment

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One of the most serious misconceptions in Christianity is that when we die in the Lord, with faith in Jesus Christ, our spirits go directly to heaven. This cannot be the case because entrance into heaven cannot happen until after the Final Judgment, and the Final Judgment cannot happen until the Second Coming of Christ. So the question really is: what happens to our souls after earthly death, before the Final Judgment after the Second Resurrection?

Partial Judgment and the Spirit World

The prophet Alma taught that there is a “state of the soul between death and the resurrection” (Alma 40:11). This state is in the spirit world where all will await the resurrection in one of three different places within the spirit world. Assignment to one of these three interim states is the result of the partial judgment. “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it” (Ecclesiastes 12:7; See Gospel Principles, 295).

Upon death we will be *partially* judged and rewarded with either a place in Paradise, a place in the Spirit Prison, or a place in Temporary Hell—all part of the spirit world. This judgment and reward will be based on faith and works. See the Sword Series™ essay on the spirit world.

Death Bed Repentance—A False Doctrine

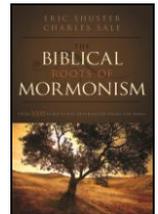
This then begs the question about what happens to those who repent on their death-bed? About deathbed

repentance, the apostle Bruce R McConkie offers the following explanation: “This life is the time that is given for men to repent and prepare to meet God. Those who have opportunity in this life to accept the truth are obligated to take it; otherwise, full salvation will be denied them. Hopes of reward through so-called death-bed repentance are vain” (Mormon Doctrine, Bruce R. McConkie; 1979 Bookcraft, Salt Lake City, 631).

The common fallacy of death bed repentance comes from the scripture of the thief who defended Jesus on the cross and that Jesus told him: “And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43). The thief did not repent, and was certainly not offered salvation; but rather the thief was promised a place in paradise, which is a part of the spirit world—a place we will all go before the Second Coming of Christ.

About The Sword Series™

The Sword Series™ is a collection of Christian theological essays that are freely distributed for the education and enjoyment of all. These essays later inspired the book *The Biblical Roots of Mormonism* by Eric Shuster (2010). The views expressed in the Sword Series™ are those of Eric Shuster based upon his study and understanding of the scriptures under the influence of the Holy Ghost. All formatted content in this paper is the property of Eric Shuster and may be distributed freely. Any modification of the content of this paper without the express written consent of Eric Shuster is prohibited. Copyright 2008 ©



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