

**I. Introduction: Are you afraid?**

**II. We face the day of judgment with confidence. 4:17**

**A. Every human being will be judged by God. Hebrews 9:27**

1. You will not be reincarnated.
2. You will not get a second chance.
3. You will not merely cease to exist.
4. Those who do not meet God's standard will experience everlasting punishment.  
Mt. 25:46 II Pe. 2:9
5. Those who are righteous will enjoy eternal life in God's presence.

**B. Many object to the doctrine of God's judgment.**

1. Some accuse us of being narrow and intolerant: "*Jesus and Jihad*"
2. Their argument is not with us, but with God. Mt 5:22 Mark 9:47-48 Deut. 32:35
3. Deep down every human being knows the day of judgment will come. Rom. 1:32
4. God would be unjust if he were to allow sin to go unpunished.
5. Where people have a problem is when they are faced with the fact that their sins are great and also deserve punishment.
6. Even believers may struggle with the biblical teaching about God's judgment.

**C. Multitudes are not ready for the day of judgment.**

1. Some deny such a day will even take place.
2. Some think the day of judgment is far off.
3. Many self-righteously think they are good enough. 1:8,10 Mt. 7:13f Ro. 3:23, 10f

**D. True Christians confidently await the Lord's return.**

1. The ground of our confidence has nothing to do with our merit. 1:9 Phil. 3:9
2. God's justice has been fully satisfied by Christ our substitute. 4:9-10 2:2 Ro. 8:1

**E. Our confidence is grounded upon our relationship with God through Christ.**

1. We enjoy the same relationship to God the Father as does the Son. v. 17 Eph. 1:6
2. Because He first loved us, we share His loving nature. 4:19,16 Jo. 15:9
3. There is no other way to be rightly related to God. John 14:6 Acts 4:12

**F. You can be sure you will be with the Lord in heaven. Phil. 1:21 II Tim. 4:6-8**

1. Some say it is impossible to be certain you will be saved in the day of judgment.
2. Because we are in Christ, we are ready to face God. Heb. 2:15
3. Confidence in God's holy presence is the mark of a mature believer. v. 17a 3:21  
5:14 2:28

### **III. Because we are united with God in love, we are free from fear. v. 18**

- A. Many people live in fear.**
- B. Because we are in a loving relationship with God, we do not fear.**
  - 1. Fear and love cannot coexist.**
  - 2. God's love drives out our fear.**
  - 3. Isn't there a sense in which we are to fear God? Proverbs 1:7 Heb. 12:28-29**
  - 4. Once you are freed from fear of death and judgment, nothing should scare you! Romans 8:15-17,31-32,38-39 Psalm 27:1-3 Mt. 10:28 Isa. 45:15 Heb. 13:5**
  - 5. This doesn't mean nothing bad happens to Christians.**
  - 6. Rather we trust that God is in control and works out all things for the good of those who love Him. Rom. 8:28**
  - 7. He will never allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bear. I Cor. 10:13**
  - 8. The "worst" thing that can happen to you is still gain. Phil. 1:21**
- C. If you are still living in fear, you need to know the love of God. II Tim. 1:7**

### **IV. Concluding applications: You can be free from fear.**

#### **Discussion questions**

- 1. What do you fear most?**
- 2. Why do many people reject the biblical teaching about the judgment?**
- 3. Why should we believe there will be a day of judgment?**
- 4. How can you face the day of judgment with confidence?**
- 5. What should you do if you still aren't certain you will be with Jesus in heaven?**
- 6. Why can't fear and love coexist?**
- 7. In what sense should we fear God and in what sense are we not afraid of Him?**
- 8. Why shouldn't you be afraid of anything?**