



WEEKLY CELL GUIDE

**18 APRIL 2021 | IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY | JOSHUA 6:15-21, REVELATION
20:11-15**

Series : I AM | Speaker : Pastor Ernie Song



WELCOME

[15 MINS]

You may want to look up the following websites for icebreakers suitable for your cell.

[Ice Breakers 1](#)

[Ice Breakers 2](#)



WORSHIP

[15 MINS]

You may select songs like

1. Worth It All
 2. Purify
-



WORD

[45 MINS]

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Commit to live in light of eternity and the coming judgment.
2. Choose a life devoted to the rule, the ways and the character of God.

SERMON SUMMARY

How we live today matters for eternity. The problem today is that there has been too much emphasis on God's love and grace that we forget God is Judge as well, and that sin must be punished. The book of Joshua gives us a picture

of God's judgment on those who are unrepentant in their ways, but in His mercy God allows a window of grace before judgment happens. Similarly, in [Revelation 20:11-15](#), we see the closing of the window of grace for our present age and the final judgment taking place. In light of these warnings, we as Christians ought to live in light of the coming reality.

SERMON RECAP

Introduction

Our sense of right and wrong comes from God because we are made in His image; what is right is whatever that is in accordance with God's character and ways, and what is wrong is whatever that goes against His character and ways. God is just, and because He is just, He has to punish sin. If not, He is not just. But in certain segments of Christianity today, there is too much emphasis on the grace and love of God, and an underemphasis on God's wrath and justice. We must have a balanced view of God. God is not only Saviour, He is also Judge. If there is no judgment, there is no point to salvation.

1. God's Judgment in the Book of Joshua ([Joshua 6:15-21](#))

- We tend to see the book of Joshua in terms of the fulfilment of God's promises and Israel's victorious battles. What we don't realise is that it is also a book of God's execution of judgment on the Canaanite nations. The sins of the Canaanites had degenerated to such abominations as transvestism, incest, pederasty, bestiality and child sacrifice.
- But God in His mercy allowed a window of opportunity for them to repent. A grace period of four generations were given to the Canaanite nations to repent but they failed. As Scripture is not explicit in this area, we need to look at God's character – He is also a God of grace and mercy. Therefore, He has to give opportunities to the Canaanites to repent. "Because the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete..." ([Genesis 15:12-21](#)). We see the Canaanites being warned of the coming judgment through Rahab's words ([Joshua 2:8-10](#)). Also, we see this consistent trait of God in Jonah's warning to the Ninevites. **Before judgment, there is a period of grace and warnings, but once grace ends, judgment begins.** God's judgment then allowed Joshua to take the land, which fulfilled the Covenant God had made with Abraham.
- The principle for judgment in the book of Joshua is called *herem* – Hebrew for 'devoted to utter destruction' or 'devoted to being dedicated to God's judgment'. The Canaanites and all their properties became *herem* because of their sinful state. They were then dedicated to destruction as a result of God's judgment. And if any Israelite were to take anything that was *herem*, they themselves would become *herem* and would receive the same punishment as the *herem*. An example is found in the story of Achan in [Joshua 7](#).

2. Judgment at the End of Days

- What we see happening in Joshua is a picture of what is to come in the last days when Jesus returns. When He returns, the window of grace will close. Those who are unrighteous will be separated from God eternally. Those who are righteous will enter into the new heaven and new earth for all eternity ([Revelation 20:11-15](#)). But those who still yoke themselves with the world and its ways (i.e., living in sin and apart from God's rule) will also be deemed *herem* and will face the same judgment.
- If there is no life after death, there will not be any justice. If God does not punish sin, there will not be any justice for victims who were cheated, murdered, raped, beaten or abused. Justice will be served one day. If God does not judge, we cannot call Him righteous, holy and just. Judgment is necessary to demonstrate integrity in God's character.
- Those who are in Christ have passed the first judgment, because Jesus became our substitute. All the sins we have committed – anger, lust, discrimination, pornography, adultery, etc. – were laid upon Christ. He suffered an excruciating death for our sins in order to satisfy the wrath of God towards our sins. He took all our guilt and punishment and in exchange, we become sinless when we turn to Him in repentance ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)). This shows how much God hates sin, and also how much God loves us. God's grace cannot be properly understood unless you first understand the judgment of God.

- The second judgment is for Christians – to give an account of our life on earth ([2 Corinthians 5:10](#)). We are now living in the window of grace. How we have lived our life, how we have managed the blessings and gifts God has given us, the words we have spoken, the deeds we have or have not done, will be judged. This is not a judgment of salvation but a judgment of accountability for Christians.
- The Old Testament gives us a model of God’s judgment, while the New Testament in Revelation shows us that the same judgment will happen when Christ returns. This is not a coming reality, *but a present reality*, because we are living in that grace period. When the window of grace is over, Jesus will return and judgment will begin. **We can never understand Jesus as Saviour until we understand Him as Judge.**

3. Implications for Us Today

- How we live today affects our eternity. But you may say, “I raised my hand, I said the sinner’s prayer, I filled up the form and I attended the new believer’s class. My salvation is confirmed, stamped and guaranteed already, right?”
- But here is the problem: We become complacent. If we continue today to live in our sinful ways, can we still be considered saved? A good portion of the New Testament devotes its teachings towards repentance – forsaking one’s old ways and embracing the ways of Christ. You read statements like “persevere on”, “I press on”, “work out your salvation with fear and trembling”, and many such warnings to Christians. (See [Philippians 2:12-14](#), [Hebrews 12:1-2](#), [1 Corinthians 9:24-27](#), [2 Timothy 4:7-8](#))
- And here is the question: If nothing can affect my salvation, why then is there so much emphasis on right living in the New Testament and in Revelation? The fact is this – how we live today as Christians will determine our tomorrows. In the future, there will be a new heaven and new earth. The old will be destroyed because of sin. If we are unrepentant and continue to desire our sinful ways (*herem*) instead of God’s ways, how are you going to live in the New Jerusalem? **Only people who fully embrace everything God is will enjoy His holy presence** ([1 Thessalonians 4:1-8](#)).

Conclusion

Why do the Gospel writers emphasise this point again and again? Why does this matter? It matters because our eternity depends on it. It matters because salvation is not an event but a journey that requires us to work it out ([Philippians 2:12](#)), where we are to train ourselves in the works of repentance ([2 Peter 1:10](#)). **We are not saved by works, but salvation always produces the fruits of repentance.** ([Ephesians 2:8-10](#)).

Final thought on the Season of Consecration for RiverLife:

Consecration is not just an event that happens for a season. It is a starting point that leads to and becomes a daily lifestyle for every RiverLifer.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **“It doesn’t matter how I live today because I am already saved. I have said the sinner’s prayer and I go to church.”** Do you agree with this statement? [15 Mins]
2. **Will God really send people to hell for not believing in Jesus? How could a loving God allow anyone to perish eternally? Discuss.** [10 Mins]
3. **If Judgement Day, as mentioned in the book of Revelation, happens a year from now, do you think you are ready for it? What would you change in your life in light of that coming reality?** [10 Mins]



Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

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1. Sermon Application

- Pray that we will live in light of eternity – and not for temporary worldly pleasures.

2. Season of Consecration

- Pray that every RiverLifer will go through this season of consecration intentionally, and that a new normal in our lives would emerge.

3. COVID-19

- Continue to pray for the spread of the virus to come to a halt.
- Pray for the recovery of our nation's economy.

4. Myanmar

- Pray for peace and stability to return to this nation.
- Pray that God will protect and provide for our brothers and sisters in that nation.



1. **Bible Reading Plan.** You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting <https://rlc.sg/brp2021>.
2. **RiverLife Community Services (RCS) Family Run.** 31 May to 13 Jun. Sign up online: rlc.sg/rcsrun.
3. **Season of Consecration.** As part of the call to consecrate, we are rallying every RiverLifer to read the book *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan in June. This is to prepare our hearts for the Special e-Gathering and sermon series based on the book in July. The call to consecrate calendar:
 - 2 - 31 May - 30 Days of Prayer & Fasting
 - 5, 12, 19 & 26 May – Consecrate Nights on Wednesdays (8.30pm to 9.30pm)
 - 1 - 30 Jun – Read and reflect on *Crazy Love* by Francis Chan
 - 3 July (SAT) – Special e-Gathering with Francis Chan
 - A four-part Consecrate sermon series will run on Sundays from April to August.



"HONOUR GOD WITH EVERYTHING YOU OWN;
GIVE HIM THE FIRST AND THE BEST."
PROVERBS 3:9 (MSG)

Give Digitally

Here are two cashless ways to give your tithes and offering.

1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app.
Scan this QR code on the right.

SCAN ME



2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account:
DBS Autosave 029-902431-0
Bank Code: 7171
Branch Code: 029

