

The Judgment

Revelation 20:11-12

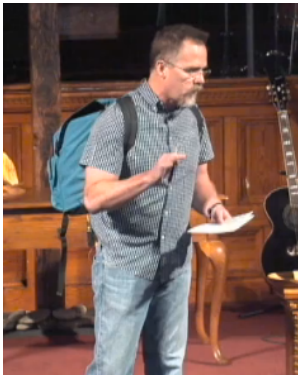
Peter Hiett

August 24, 2008

Prayer

Message

I brought these books. I wanted to show them to you. It's so hard to move—carry all these books around, but I have to take them with me because the books tell me what's good and what's evil.



They're called the *Book of Judgment*, and I'm gonna show them to you in just a minute here. I'll show you how they work. They're extremely complicated so I didn't bring all of them; I just brought some to show you what I would use in one particular day back along about 1975 when I was in high school. [Peter struggles to move, manage, and arrange the weight of all these books he's brought to show to everyone. He then picks up one of the books.]



Here, see that? *Judgment—Volume 89,629.6*

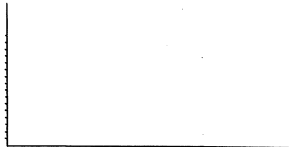
I took just one page, out of one *Book of Judgment*, from one moment back in 1975, and I reproduced it here:

The BOOK of JUDGMENT

The TABLE of
GOOD DEEDS

The RECORD of
GOOD DEEDS

The COMPUTATION of "THE GOOD" + "THE BAD"



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS
"The Neighbors"

Now, I'm going to show you how this works. Just try to follow along and I think you'll begin to understand as it goes. [Peter is now out of breath from moving the books in order to find the correct volume.]

3:27pm, on the 15th of September 1975, *The Book of Judgment* helps me know what is good and what is bad. This is one page; I've edited the page to just include three people: Bobby, Dave, and me. At any moment this is how I would judge knowing the good and the bad.

Peter Hiatt

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3:27 PM

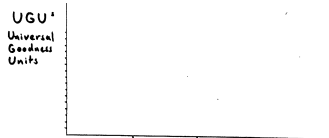
The BOOK of JUDGMENT

The TABLE of
GOOD DEEDS

The RECORD of
GOOD DEEDS (in UGU's)

	Bobby	Me	Dave
Shi Tngs			
Sports			
Girls			
Pimples			
Dumb Instruments			
Body Function Noises			

The COMPUTATION of "THE GOOD" + "THE BAD"



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS
"The Neighbors"

On the left is the table of good deeds. In 1975, I referred to them as "Categories of Cool." On the right is the record of good deeds measured in UGU's, which of course are Universal Goodness Units. They are measured against my neighbors—the people close to me—Dave and Bobby.

One category of cool that was really important when I was in high school was ski tags. If you had a lot of ski tags on your jacket that meant you were cool.

Peter Hiatt Page # 924,465,432 9-15-75 3:27 PM

The BOOK of JUDGMENT

Categories of cool
~~The TABLE of GOOD DEEDS~~

The RECORD of GOOD DEEDS (in UGU's)

	Bobby	Me	Dave
Ski Tags	2	2	-
Sports	3	1	-
Girls	3	3	-
Pimples	3	1	-1
Dumb Instruments	3	3	-4
Body Function Noises	0	2	4
	14	12	-1

Ski Tags

Bobby had a lot of ski tags (give him 2 UGU's)

I had a lot of ski tags on my jacket (give me 2 UGU's)

Dave never had any ski tags (give him zippo, nada, nothing!)

Sports

Bobby was really good at sports (give him 3)

I could kinda do a sport (give me 1)

Dave didn't do any sports (give him zippo, zero, nada)

Girls

All the girls liked Bobby (give Bobby a 3)

I once talked to a cheerleader (give me . . . 3, right?)

Dave didn't have a girlfriend (so give Dave 0—nothing for Dave)

Pimples

Bobby never had any pimples (give him a 3)

I had some pimples; I had some struggles with that (give me a 1)

Dave once came to school with dried Clearasil on his face! (That's, like, -1)

Dumb Instruments

That's really important!

Bobby didn't play any dumb instruments (give him a 3)

I didn't play any dumb instruments (give me a 3)

Dave was state champion cello player. (-4!)

Bodily Function Noises

Bobby didn't have a lot of body function noises (give him 0)

I could do pretty well in that department (2)

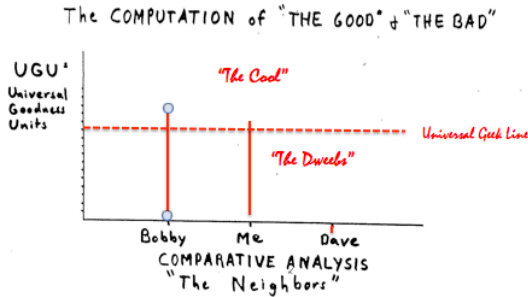
Dave could burp the entire alphabet (that's +4) It was spectacular.

OK. This is what you do. Now, remember, these scores are factored into historical scores, which are factored into the books. It's too complicated for you to understand, so

what I am going to do, I'm going to assume that we're going to start at zero as we do these computations. Wow! This is a lot of work!

[Peter begins calculating: 5,8,11 and that's 14...is that right? Yeah.

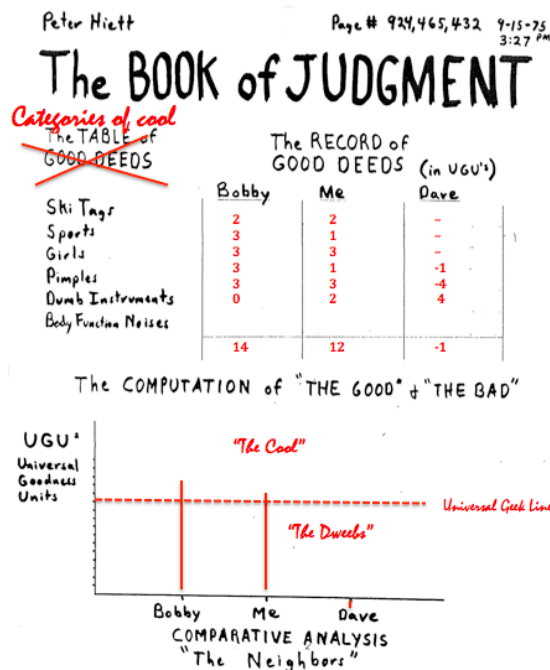
And then: 2,4,7,8,11,13, and over here Ahhh.. -1!!



OK, so then you go over here. [Peter computes on the graph.]

Now you plot the computation of the good and the bad. So, Bobby is like 14 (right about there) [Peter draws a line.] I'm, like, 12 [Peter draws a line] and then you've got Dave [Peter draws another line] right about here. (Dave is quite low on the scale!)]

Now, after you plot your scores you do this: About half an inch under your score you draw the "Universal Geek Line." This is very, very important because that tells you what's good and what's bad. This is known as the dweeb zone.



I was ruled by the *Book of Judgment*. It determined who I SAT with at lunch, who I said, "Hey dude" to in the hallway. It was the reason I went out for sports that I hated, like cross-country, and it's why I quit piano. I was driven in fear by the *Books of Judgment*. I was enslaved; it determined my mood. If Bobby got a big zit, I rejoiced because I was that much closer to my idol!

When I was down, I could think of Dave carrying his cello across the football field while I practiced soccer. I could judge him as last and least and feel good about myself. But that year, I got cut from the soccer team. I don't know if I've ever been so depressed, not because I missed soccer, but because it knocked me down into the "Dweeb zone."

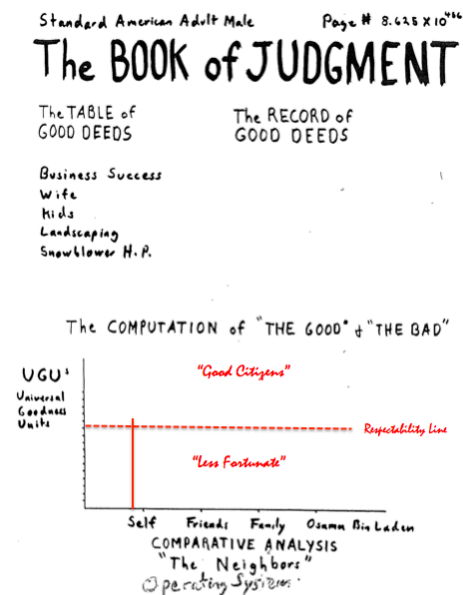
I went down behind our house by the railroad tracks and wept for hours thinking, "How can I explain to my grandchildren that I was a dweeb." That really hurt, but after a few weeks of moping, I just changed a few categories and then lowered the Universal Geek line! That's the beauty of it, but also why it's so much work—all the computation and it's why you kind of live in fear: "What if my computations are inaccurate?"

What if Dave has different categories of cool?

What if I'm Bobby's dweeb—the last and least that made him feel good about how cool he was?

Now you might be kind of laughing and thinking to yourself: "Well, tenth graders, they are so incredibly immature."

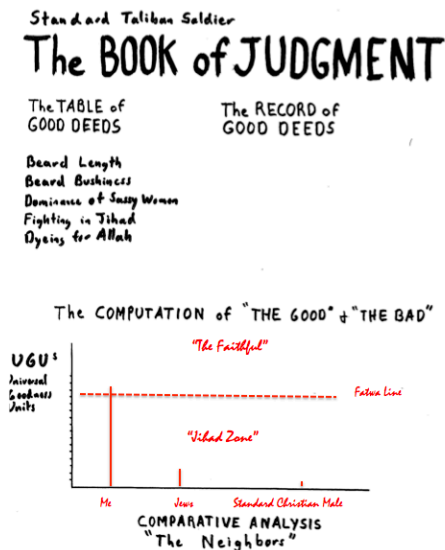
Let me show you a page out of the *Book of Judgment* for the standard American adult male.



It's exactly the same layout—the same operating system: competition, pride, and shame. Just the categories of “good” have changed. They’re things like: Professional Success, Wife, Children, Landscaping, Snow blower Horse Power—that’s big, if you’re a standard American adult male.

The “Universal Geek line” is no longer called that; it’s called the “Respectability Line.” Above it are “Good Citizens,” below it are the “Less Fortunate.” And you measure yourself against your neighbors. You’ve got: Self, Neighbors, Co-workers, Taliban. It’s the same thing. It’s “important” to put someone in there that you can judge as the last and the least and feel better about yourself.

Now, here’s a page out of the *Book of Judgments* for a Taliban warrior.



It’s the same format, just the categories of good are things like: Beard Bushiness, Dominance of Sassy Women, Not Being a Jew, Fighting and Jihad–Dying for Allah, instead of the Universal Geek Line, this is the Fatwa line. The infidels are below and the faithful above. Again, the operating system is the same, it’s pride, envy, judgment, fear, competition.

Below is a page for a Jewish Pharisee.

It’s the same layout; it’s just that the categories of “cool” have changed. Instead of beard bushiness its circumcision, phylactery length, not eating with sinners, not being born in a barn or crucified on a cross. They have a “Universal Geek Line” It’s the Righteous Jews and Gentile Sinners. It’s the same operating system; it’s pride, envy, judgment, fear and competition.

Standard Jewish Pharisee

The BOOK of JUDGMENT

The TABLE of
GOOD DEEDS

The RECORD of
GOOD DEEDS

Circumcision Party
Phylactery length
Not eating with Tax Collectors + Sinners
Not being born in a barn
Not being crucified on a cross

The COMPUTATION of "THE GOOD" + "THE BAD"



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS
"The Neighbors"
Operating System:

You say, "Good thing we are Christians and not Jews or Muslims!"

Here's a standard page for the adult Christian male.

Standard American Christian

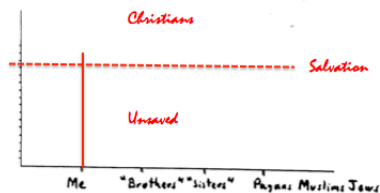
The BOOK of JUDGMENT

The TABLE of
GOOD DEEDS

The RECORD of
GOOD DEEDS

No Gross Sins
No Cussing
Neat + Xtion words
Quality Bible Cover
Short Term Mission Project
Harry Potter

The COMPUTATION of "THE GOOD" + "THE BAD"



COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS
"The Neighbors"
Operating System:

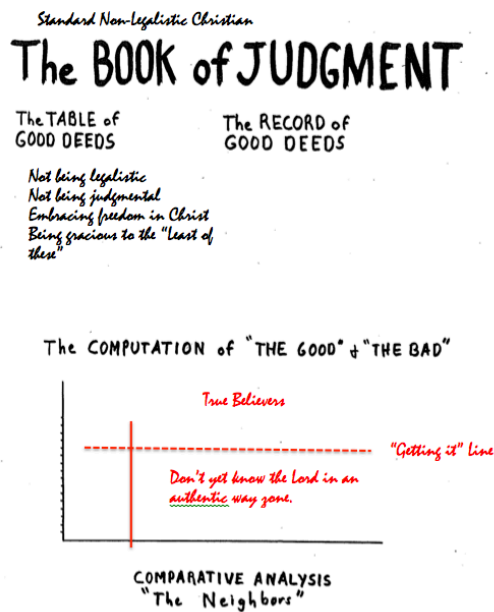
It's the exact same layout, but again the categories of cool have changed.

Instead of being in the circumcised party, it's not cussing and, instead, saying neat Christian words like bless you. It's smiling a lot, mission projects, having the right list, not

reading *Harry Potter*, that kind of stuff. Instead of the “Universal Geek Line” there’s a “Salvation” line. “Born Again” people are above and there’s a “Wonder if They Know the Lord” zone down below, because we’re not supposed to judge. In our hearts though we’re like: “We got it! We know what’s going on here with Heaven and Hell.” And if you mess with that it really freaks people out because it messes up the whole system. It makes people nervous about judgments. I’m judging: Me, Neighbors, Friends, Taliban. In the end, it’s just the same: pride, judgment, and competition.

You say, “That is so true! I’m glad you pointed that out. I’m glad I’m not one of those legalistic Christians. “

Here's a page for the Standard Non-Legalistic Christian.



The categories of good are: Not Being Legalistic, Not Being Judgmental, Embracing Freedom in Christ, Being Gracious to the “Last and Least.” The operating system is still the same; it’s still fear and envy and pride. It’s the same dynamics so we end up enslaved to acting free, judging people on judgmentalness, and we’re driven to be most gracious. We use the last and least to earn points.

Below is a page from my *Book of Judgments* today.

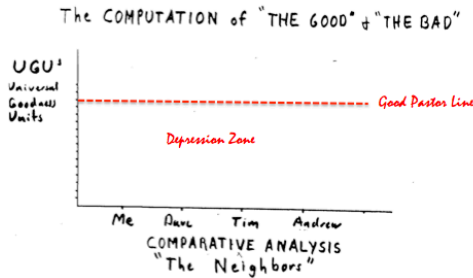
Peter Hiatt Now

The BOOK of JUDGMENT

The TABLE of
GOOD DEEDS

The RECORD of
GOOD DEEDS

Preaching Well
Church Size
Family
Evangelism



The categories of good things are like: Preaching Well, Church size, Family, Leading others to Christ. Maybe this is, like, my definition of the "Good Pastor Line" and below it is the "Depression Zone." It's the same operating system. You see? I measure myself against my neighbors—people who are in the same category as me: Dave, Andrew, Tim, Jesus.

This is an amazing thing but Jesus was in Dave, the one who was the state champion cello player. He turned out to be one of my best friends, the best man in my wedding. We worked in ministry together, but I still battled the *Book of Judgments* so when Dave preached at youth group, I secretly hoped it didn't go well because then I'd look better.

My friend Tim had a larger church than me but in a depression he asphyxiated himself leaving behind his wife, children, and church. Something inside me said, "Yay, I won." I remember the night I held Dave in my arms as he sobbed saying, "Leslie in leaving me." That was his wife, and something in me wanted to rejoice.

I'll be honest, Andrew would come back from mission trips to places like Mozambique and shared how people came to Christ, and it will get me depressed. Why? Because in that same time I didn't lead anyone to Christ. So what's my wish? It sounds as if I wish people didn't get saved. I might as well just wish them all to hell to guard my ego.

See what I end up doing?

I end up hating my best friends and hating the Kingdom, and maybe even hating God. And then, when I see that, I hate myself! I condemn myself.

I think Scripture calls all of these books "the law," and the energy by which I play this game, the flesh. And when I live by the *Book of Judgments* I walk in death. I can't live gracefully carrying these books. I can't dance well, sing well, laugh well, or live well.

Ironically trying to be good, I can't be good. I'm always preoccupied with the books and how I measure up. I'm calculating, scheming, posing, and posturing; it's a terrible burden to carry & I can't lose myself; I'm enslaved to myself, stuck with myself. And Jesus said, *"Unless you lose your life you'll never find it."* You must lose yourself, die to yourself—in order to love. I'm unable to get beyond myself, carrying those books, so I certainly can't love others, & I can't love God. I can't even love myself. 1 John 3:14 *"He who does not love abides in death."* Death—the walking dead—a zombie.

Genesis 2:16 God said, *"Adam you may freely eat of every tree in the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat for in the day you eat of it you shall surely die."* The knowledge of good and evil, I think we call that the law.

At the dragon's tempting, Adam doubted God's goodness and trusted the law instead of God. He ate and he got a law library and lost God. He ate and he got the knowledge of good and bad—knowledge he was naked, bad, and dead—the walking dead. To live according to the flesh is death. When I judge, everyone dies.

Well, let's look at God's judgment. Revelation 20:11 John writes, *"And I saw a great white throne and him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them, and I saw the dead."*

Now in the previous paragraph, John saw the living, those who live with Christ on earth, the first resurrection—those who've been born again. So whoever is alive in Christ is not standing with this crowd. Or whatever *IN* you is alive, in Christ, is not standing here with this crowd. And this judgment is not to decide whether or not you live or die, if you were with this crowd you're already dead: *"And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books (plural) were opened; and another book (singular) was opened, which is the book of life, in it the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds."*

The dead are judged by the things in the books according to their deeds—works. Jesus said, *"Judge not that you be not judged, for with the judgment you pronounce, you will be judged."* That is, "You want to play by the books, you'll get the books, and when you get the books, you'll already be dead because playing by the books is death."

Have you ever wondered why it is that across the globe people have a knowledge of good and evil (the books). We argue about the details—categories of Good, but people live with these books in their hearts and minds, constantly keeping score, trying to be good. I think that's because we all know, deep inside, we have a Creator and He has access to books.

Perhaps He keeps no record of wrongs, but satan—the accuser does. He keeps a record of those wrongs, and God has access to the books, and God is good. We exist in fear of those books, constantly preparing our defense. For we know, one day the books will be opened and there will be an accounting.

Jesus revealed on what that accounting is based. He quoted Deuteronomy saying, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."*

This is the great and first commandment and the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. On this rests all the law and prophets."

By loving my neighbor, people on bottom of my list, by loving them or not I love God. In Matthew 25, Jesus described the judgment this way, I think it's the same judgment from a different angle—I think there's one judge so Jesus called it the judgment:

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left...

He says some stuff to the sheep on his right and then v.41:

⁴¹ "...he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

If you want to live by the book, God has books. He's in Lazarus by the gate. He's in the last and the least. He's in the stranger and sojourner; He's in them as judgment. The goats say, "When did we see you?" Well they didn't see him... Ever! They just saw the last and the least, or at best, a way to score points. Just by judging someone the "last" or the "least," I judge Jesus Christ last and least, and I don't see Him.

Remember when He walked this earth almost everyone judged Him last and least, baby in a food trough, peasant on a cross—cursed. So, living by the books, God is everywhere in my world as judgment. And just by playing the game, trusting the books, I hate my neighbor and so I hate God, and then hate myself, and I broadcast to the heavenly places, "Yes! I stole fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil; I'm dead!!"

Well, if we dare guess at God's book, what would it look like.

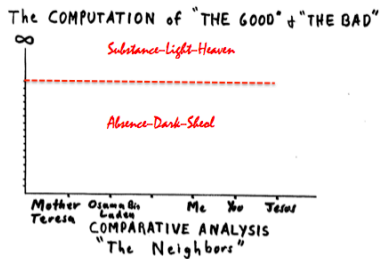
I'm guessing it would look something like this:
(See below)

GOD The BOOK of JUDGMENT

The TABLE of
GOOD DEEDS

The RECORD of
GOOD DEEDS

LOVE
the Lord with all
you are +
your Neighbor
as Yourself



Categories of Cool-Good Deeds

Perfect Love

"Love the Lord with all you are. Love your neighbor as yourself"
(That would include not keeping score.)

The Geek Line is somewhere up near perfection.

Above it is substance, below it is absence.

Above is light, below is dark. Above is His creation—heaven.

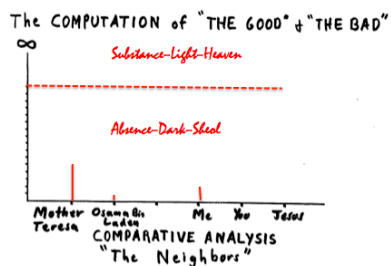
And below is the abyss—*Sheol*.

GOD The BOOK of JUDGMENT

The TABLE of
GOOD DEEDS

The RECORD of
GOOD DEEDS

LOVE
the Lord with all
you are +
your Neighbor
as Yourself



Now, how do we measure up? I plotted them. How about Mother Theresa? Dang! She's good! What would she be compared to Jesus? A 3 or 4, at least, right? Osama Bin Laden? That's hard, we don't really know his story well do we? Let's give him 1. Barak Obama? That's a tense question! We won't do that. Me? I think I'd be as good as Osama Bin Laden. Well, you see, none of us are very good compared to God's expectations. In fact, Scripture says, "we're all dead," even our good deeds are "as filthy rags" so Mother Theresa's 4 doesn't really even count.

Just by trying to be first, just by plotting it, I'm last according to Scripture.

Well, what good are the books, or the knowledge of the books?

1. They tell us we're dead.
2. They tell us we need a Savior.
3. They tell Adam—mankind—a walk with God is better than a law library. And now, Adam you are prepared to meet the pinnacle of good. You are prepared to meet Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Where's Jesus on this chart (Where do we plot Him)?

Jesus lived a perfect life. Jesus died a perfect gift.

He is everything the books talked about, the ultimate Adam.

He is the standard.

He is the measure, the Judgment, the Good.

He's our Savior and yet, He's also the Judgment.

He said, I judge no one, yet He *is* the Judgment. He said now is the judgment of this world. THE judgment—one Judgment. Somehow, the Great White Throne judgment, the judgment of the sheep and goats, the cross, they are all one judgment.

Well, in Revelation 20, on the last day when it is finished, books are opened. They are the law, the table of good, and record of good deeds. Books are opened and another book (singular) is opened, one book, *The Book of Life*. And in Revelation 13 and 17, we read this book contains names written from the foundation of the world. Names, it doesn't say deeds, but names. To the Hebrews, names were persons. These are persons who belong to the Lamb on the throne. It's the *Lamb's Book of Life*.

Jesus is the Passover lamb. The Passover lamb could be taken from the sheep or the goats. Jesus is the Scapegoat, the Sheep, the Spotless Lamb; Jesus is Life. Jesus is the Lamb and Jesus is the Life, and this is the *Lamb's Book of Life*. Jesus said, "*Truly, truly, He who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.*"

That means He's living, resurrected, and the second death won't hurt Him. He has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. He does not come into judgment, for in some way it's already happened. How can that be?

Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 5: "*For our sake, God made Jesus to be sin, who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*" Jesus is ultimate Adam—*Eschatos* man—Superman. He bears our sin to destruction. He's THE Scapegoat, the sin offering; He became sin for us. That we might become the righteousness of God, the

spotless Lamb of God. His righteousness is imputed to us, by grace, as a gift. That righteousness is revealed as faith. You're justified by faith.

Faith is the evidence we've been judged righteous.
Faith is Christ's righteousness in us, Christ in us, and He is the good.
The good is not a what, but a Who!
It's not a list, but a Person!
It's not a law, but Spirit!

In Galatians 3, Paul wrote, *"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us. For it is written, cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree."* I believe the tree, the *sculon* on which Jesus was crucified, was the tree of the knowledge of evil. Jesus was crucified, cursed by the law on our behalf. He was literally nailed to the law on our behalf.

In Colossians 2 Paul writes, *"And you, who were dead in the trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us our trespasses, having cancelled the bond which stood against us, a certificate of debt with its legal demands; this he set aside, nailing it to the cross."*

At the cross, It's like God opens the books; the judgment of this world.
At the cross, God opens your/my books with their legal demands, and with His own blood, through all my history: past, present, future, with His own blood, He stamped cancelled on every debt.

Peter picks up one of the books from the *Book of Judgment*.
He says, "Let me see. I want to take a look here at *Peter's Book of Judgment*.
Hmmm...what do we have here? 'Disrespecting his mother – fourteen times, August 13th, 1975.' I've got just the thing for that." God takes a big old stamp (Peter uses his fist as an invisible stamp and dips it in the communion wine), dips it in His blood and stamps: **"CANCELLED!"**

Peter begins to stamp numerous pages:

"Lust- 5,347 times, between 4-10pm" [Congregation laughs] **CANCELLED!**
"Murder in the heart" – **CANCELLED!**
"Greed" – **CANCELLED!**
"Slander" – **CANCELLED!**
"Playboys at Walt Pickup's house 7th grade" – **CANCELLED!**
"Judging Dave Jones at soccer practice" – **CANCELLED!**
"Going into ministry to feed his own ego" – **CANCELLED!**
"Living by books" – **CANCELLED! CANCELLED! CANCELLED...** by my blood!
"Drink of it all of you, stop living by the books!"

Paul goes on in Colossians 2, *"There he disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them triumphing over them, in Jesus."* Do you see what Paul is saying? This isn't just some be happy psychology. This is the very heart of your battle with the ancient serpent, the heart of your battle with the systems of the world, your battle with the flesh. You *must* believe you are entirely forgiven and thoroughly loved.

You conquer the dragon, the serpent by the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony, by believing the blood of the Lamb over every moment of your life. That's your testimony! Then every point of sin your life is transformed into a point of grace. Then the books are no longer books of condemnation but the testimony of grace. No longer the Old Testament but the New Testament, gospel.

So now, I look at the old books of judgment and what do I see?

3:27 p.m. September 15th, 1975

Judging Dave Jones

Punishment destruction

Debt CANCELLED– PAID IN FULL (by the blood of Jesus)

Wow! He must really love me!!

Playboys at Walt pickups house

Debt CANCELLED–Jesus hung on a cross

Wishing thousands to hell to guard my ego

Debt CANCELLED– PAID IN FULL (by the blood of Jesus)

Peter Hiatt's *Book of Condemnation*, Peter Hiatt's *Record of Wrongs* becomes *The Gospel According to Peter Hiatt*. Every disobedience becomes an exhibition of God's mercy. Jesus is no longer everywhere as condemnation but everywhere is the revelation of grace. The blood of the Lamb over every event in my life is the word of my testimony.

We overcome: "*by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony.*" Every moment we believe, we crush the head of the serpent for all of his accusations have become gospel. So, when he whispers in your ear, "Look what you've done, you are a wretch." Don't argue. Preach to him the gospel! Sing to him: "Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!"

And now, when you go to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil—the tree of law, what do you see? Certificates and debt cancelled in blood! You see body broken and blood shed. You see God in flesh hanging there for the love of you! You see? He is the fruit. He is the Good. You can't steal it because God gives it to you. He says, "*Take and eat; this is my body and this is my blood poured out for you.*"

Satan really, really, really has been disarmed. So, Satan's only hope is to get us to believe lies, to get us to believe falsified documents. His only hope is to get us to believe that we are not forgiven. For then we live by the old books. We begin to condemn others. We begin to condemn ourselves. We choose death and do the work of the accuser for him. We become the accuser of the brethren. That's how he takes us out of the battle and even enlists us on his side, and he keeps us from doing the works of God. They asked Jesus, "*What must we be doing to be doing the works of God?*" And Jesus said, "*This is the work of God that you believe in him who he has sent.*"

Back to Revelation 20. The dead were judged from the things in the books, according to their deeds:

And the sea gave up the dead, which were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And IF (this is something we don't know) anyone's name was not found written in the book of life he was thrown into the lake of fire.

The dead are judged according to their deeds in the books. And we're not...because we are not dead! For our deeds have been surrendered to Christ at the cross, disposed of in the fire, and we've received eternal life! However, in Revelation 22:12 Jesus says, *"I'm coming soon with my reward to repay everyone for his deeds."* **Everyone!** Well, if my evil deeds were judged and paid for at the cross, what deeds are these?

If my record of condemnation is cancelled, what record is this? If my evil deeds were already disposed of by the Scapegoat, in the fire, what deeds are these? If I'm not paid for evil deeds, what deeds am I paid for?

The king will say to those at his right hand, "Come oh blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world to, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?"

We don't remember. And the king will answer them, *"Truly, I say to you as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."* I bet they don't remember because they weren't keeping score. They weren't conscious of the books. They weren't conscious of themselves. They weren't conscious of the last or the least; they loved because they've been so loved by Christ. As if they were dead to themselves, forgetting themselves, and alive to God in Christ Jesus, who lived in them.

They weren't trying to *make* themselves good; they just *were* good.

"They loved the Lord their God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength."

"They loved their neighbor as themselves" because love was their nature!

Or I should say, God was their nature.

For *"Love is of God, and God is love."*

So, it was no longer *"they who lived but God who lived in them."*

It was not their own good deeds but Christ's good deed in them—the spotless Lamb in them. Christ was their nature, their life, and they were, like, His Body!

I work so hard at trying to be good, to impress God and impress you. On Judgment day trumpets will sound, and Jesus will say something like this,

"PETER HIETT!!"

"August 7, 5:15am, You gave me a cup of cold water. Enter my Kingdom."

And I'll say,

"Ahh, but I don't even remember that?"

And He'll reply,

"Exactly, you weren't trying to be good, you just *were* good."

"And now you know good and evil, not because you stole fruit and memorized the law, you know good because you've passed through judgment, because you're forgiven, because I have made you good with Grace."

So, what am I trying to say? "Try harder to love?" NO

Confess that you don't, and receive His Love—Grace.

When you see it, it will change you:

"The one forgiven much loves much."

Several years ago, in Besarabia Romania, the Soviet army marched into a particular village. They rounded up all the Christians, some two hundred of them, and took them into a field. They forced them to dig their own graves. They were to be shot.

When they were finished, the captain said, "Whoever renounces Christ can go home immediately. Some decided to be shot; some renounced their faith. While they were returning to the village and the executions were about to begin, a man came running from the village to the field screaming (the man had been expelled from the church for gross sin), "Shoot me too! Shoot me too! I'm a bad Christian, but a bad Christian is also a Christian. A bad Christian also has the right to die for Christ! Shoot me too."

He wanted to die for Jesus: *"Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."* Jesus was his friend and nature. Love was his nature. The law was written on his heart by God.

He wasn't a bad Christian. He was a new creation.

Forgiven much, we love much.

If you call Jesus Savior, you've been forgiven much.

You just need to see it.

Communion

We invite you to the throne room, to see you've been forgiven much.

We invite you to the judgment seat—that is the mercy seat.

We invite you to the table of the Lord—the altar of sacrifice.

We invite you to come to the ancient tree.

In the garden there were two trees.

In the New Jerusalem there is one tree that serves both functions.

It reveals the good and evil.

The cross is both trees—the *sculon* in Greek, and it gives us life.

And what's the fruit of this tree?

What's hanging on that tree that we are now commanded to eat?

A bunch of laws? NO— He said, *"The day you eat of it you will die!"*

THIS is what's hanging on the tree (Peter points to communion)

The Good—Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

And so, on the night that He was betrayed, He took bread and broke it saying, *This is my body given to you; take and eat; do this in remembrance of me.* And in the same manner, after supper, He took the cup and He said, *"This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood, shed for the forgiveness of sins, drink of this all of you; do it in remembrance of me."*

Do you see? When you come to this table, you surrender to God's judgment.

It reveals that you are guilty, and it kills you.

It reveals that God is Mercy, and it gives you life.

To be a Christian is to believe God's mercy, in Christ Jesus.

It is to trust your Father's judgment, and He is good!

Prayer

So, there's no one like you God! You are the Creator. Forgive us for trying to be you instead of surrendering to you so that we can be filled with you. We are your Bride, your temple, your people through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction

Jesus said, *"The one forgiven much loves much."* So, if you do not love much what's the problem? Do you need to go out and sin so that grace may abound? No, you've already sinned plenty. It's that you don't believe you're forgiven much.

So, when you look at your life and you say, "I'm not loving very much," don't try harder. Go back to the fountain, the altar, and see how much God has loved you even in that place that you're feeling accused about.

Believe that you are forgiven much, and then you will love much!

Then you'll build hospitals and roads. You'll feed the hungry. You'll give hope to the hopeless. You will actually be, and become, the Body of Christ.

Believe the Gospel and you'll live the Gospel, in Jesus' name, Amen.

Disclaimer: This document is a draft and has not been edited by the author. Therefore, there may be discrepancies. Some discrepancies may be minor; some may have to do with theology. When in doubt, please refer to the audio version of the sermon on this website and don't be shy about informing us of errors.