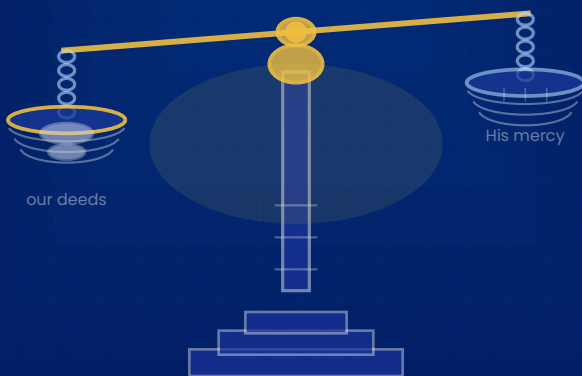


THE NON-NEGOTIABLES

EPISODE 05

THE FINAL JUDGEMENT

Are you ready to stand before Him?



— everyone who has ever lived will stand before God —

HOPE CITY CHURCH

MAY 14 & 17, 2026

THE NON-NEGOTIABLES • SERIES FINALE

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THE NON-NEGOTIABLE

The Final Judgment is when everyone who has ever lived will stand before God. This is not a peripheral doctrine — it is a cornerstone of the Christian faith.

"The Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds."

— MATTHEW 16:27

Every person will stand before God.

Rich or poor, famous or unknown — no exceptions.

God sees everything clearly.

Nothing is hidden from Him — actions, words, motives, thoughts.

Nobody can avoid that day.

Eternal immunity does not exist.

TWO DIFFERENT COURTS

Scripture reveals that not everyone faces the same judgment. Where you stand with Christ now determines which court you will appear before.

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

Rev. 20:11–15

For unbelievers.
Judgment — final
verdict on eternity.

THE BEMA SEAT

2 Cor. 5:10

For believers in Christ.
Evaluation — rewarding
faithfulness.

"There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus."

— ROMANS 8:1

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE — REVELATION 20

The Apostle John, in a vision from the Holy Spirit, describes the scene of the Final Judgment — given as a warning to the churches of his day, and to every generation since.

"I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence... I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life..."

— REVELATION 20:11-12

UNPACKING THE VISION

"Great White Throne"

GREAT

Supreme authority — none higher.

WHITE

Perfect holiness — no partiality.

"The dead, both great and small"

GREAT

Rich, famous, powerful — no escape.

SMALL

Unknown, forgotten, overlooked — seen.

"The books were opened"

THE BOOKS

A complete record of every life ever lived.

BOOK OF LIFE

Names of those who belong to Christ.

"Anyone whose name was not found in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire."

— REVELATION 20:15

Hell is real. It is not a swear word. It is a place of eternal consequence — and one Jesus warned about repeatedly.

"No one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows."

— MATTHEW 24:36

THE BEMA SEAT — FOR BELIEVERS

For those in Christ, the Final Judgment is not about condemnation — that is settled at the cross. In the New Testament the Bema Seat refers to a heavenly evaluation: an accounting of how we lived and served.

*"We will all stand before
the judgment seat of God."*

— ROM. 14:10

*"We must all stand before
Christ to be judged."*

— 2 COR. 5:10

WHAT THE BEMA SEAT IS — AND ISN'T

IS NOT Deciding who goes to heaven or hell — salvation is settled in Christ.

IS NOT A punishment for sins already forgiven through faith in Jesus.

IS An evaluation of a Christian's faithfulness and obedience.

IS A time of reward — how well did you follow and serve Him?

FAITH THAT SHOWS — JAMES 2

James makes clear that genuine faith is visible. What we do with our lives is the evidence of what we believe in our hearts.

*"Faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces
good deeds, it is dead and useless."*

— JAMES 2:17

"Well done, my good and faithful servant."

— MATTHEW 25:23

What words do you want spoken to you when you stand before Jesus?

HOW TO PREPARE

The Final Judgment should change how we live today. Here are three ways to get ready – not in fear, but in faithfulness.

1 – GET YOURSELF READY

There is one way to secure your eternity: surrender your life to Jesus. Come to Him in repentance. He does the cleaning. He leads the way.

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one can come to the Father
except through me."*

— JOHN 14:6

*"Repent of your sins and turn to God,
so that your sins
may be wiped away."*

— ACTS 3:19

2 – MAKE YOUR LIFE MATTER

Fame, money, success, and status are not the measurements that matter to God. What will matter: Did you love? Did you serve? Did you obey?

- *Our eternal rewards will be established based on these everyday choices.*
- *Small acts of obedience, kindness, and faithfulness matter more than we realise in the moment.*

3 – LIVE WITH URGENCY

Heaven and hell are real. If we truly believe this, it changes how we speak to the people around us. We all have someone who, unless they turn to God, will spend eternity apart from Him.

"You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world – like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden... let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."

— MATTHEW 5:13–16

Get ready. Make it matter. Live with urgency.

THE NON-NEGOTIABLES

Foundations of the Christian Faith

EPISODE 05: THE FINAL JUDGEMENT

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