

The Olivet Discourse 8: The Final Judgment

Matthew 25:31-46

I. Introduction: Graham Stains and *“The Least of These.”*

Review of Context

Olivet Discourse as a whole

The conclusion of the three previous parables

II. Exposition of the text

31: Two glories (resist glory on earth, wait for the real thing)

32-33: Separating the sheep and the goats

34-40: The reward and activity of righteous sheep (inherit the kingdom)

41-45: The curse on the non-activity of unrighteous goats (hell fire)

The doctrine of eternal conscious punishment

46: Two destinies

Does this passage teach salvation by works?

A final judgment on the basis of works (Mt 16:27, Rom 2:6, Rev 22:12, 2 Cor 5:10, Phil 2:8-11)

Understanding the purpose of the final judgment of believers (Ro 14:11)

III. Interpretative challenges that affect application

Who are “all the nations” in verse 32?

Who are “the sheep” and “the goats” in verses 33-45?

Who are “the least of these (my brethren)” in verses 40 and 45?

The Classical Interpretive Model: Christians serving Christians

The Universal Interpretive Model: All people serving the needy of the world

IV. Application