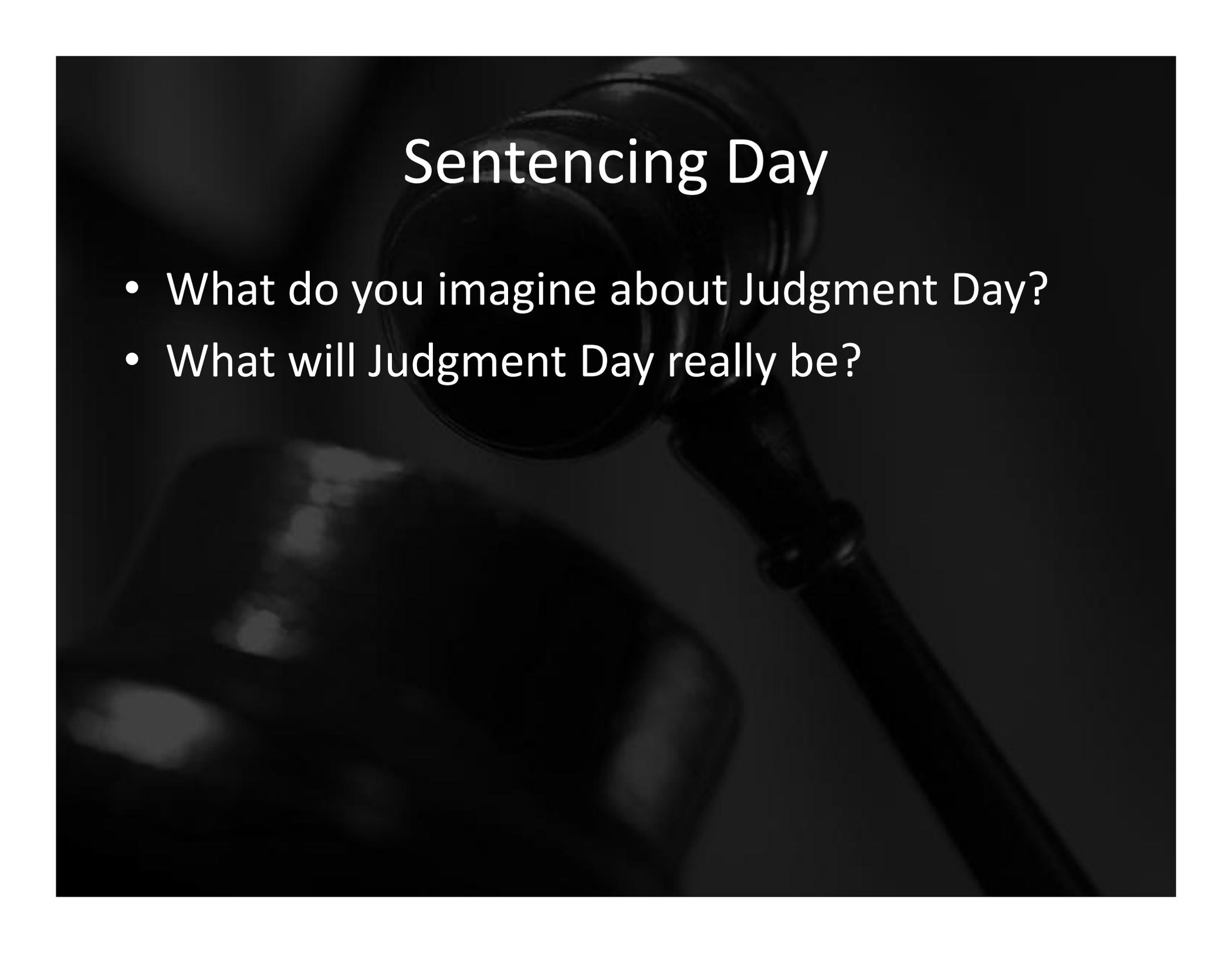


# Sentencing Day

Rev. 20:11-15



# Sentencing Day

- What do you imagine about Judgment Day?
- What will Judgment Day really be?

# The Setting

- Rev. 20:11-12 - “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”

# The Setting

- The Background

- A terrifying fact - We will stand in the presence of God stripped of all pretenses and will appear as we really are. We will hide nothing from God
- Heb. 4:11-13 - “Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. 12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

# The Setting

- A terrifying figure - Jesus, the One men denied, cursed and mocked will be the One before whom they will stand.
  - John 5:22 - “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son”
  - Rev. 6:15-16 - “And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, 16 and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!”

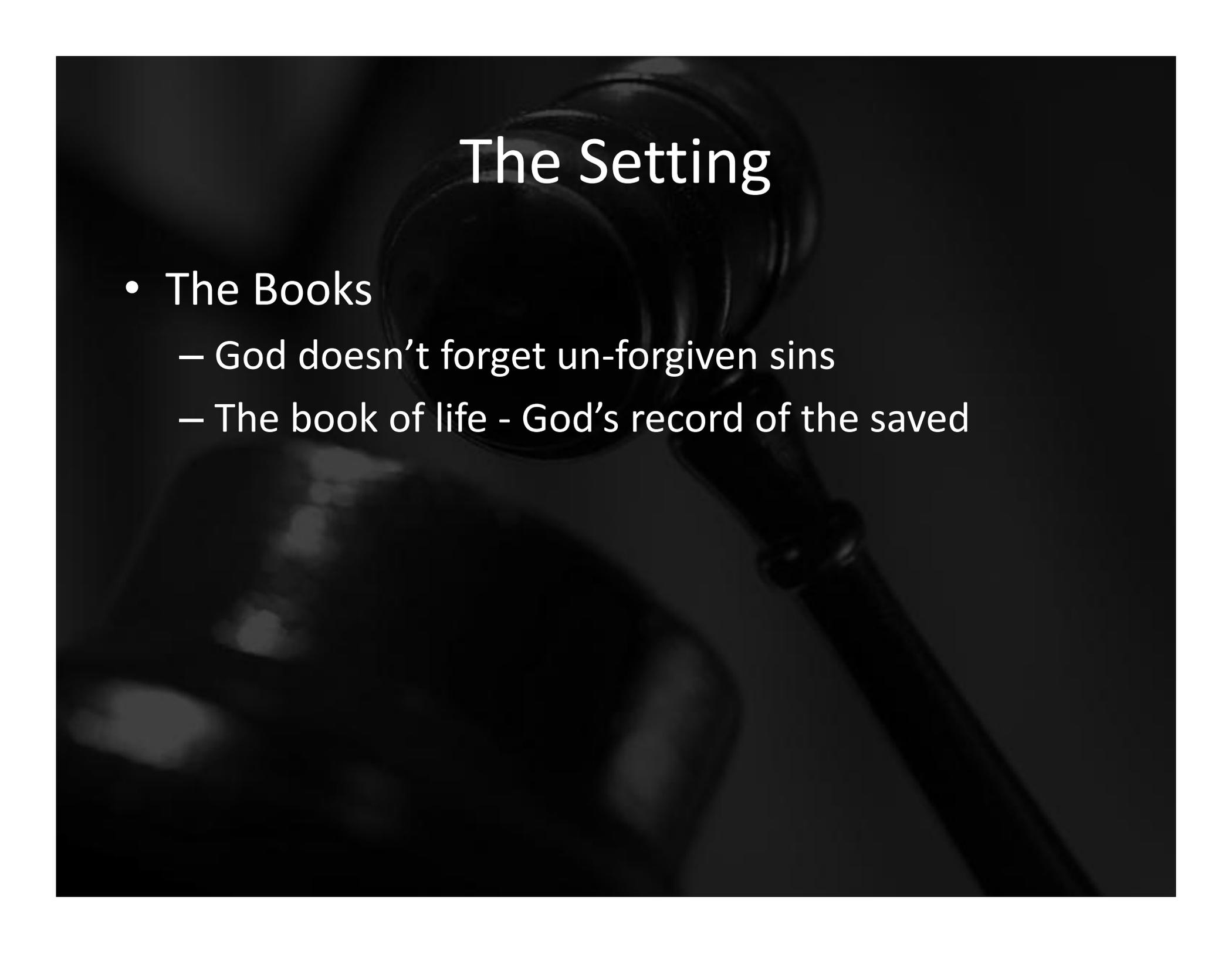
# The Setting

- A terrible fear - They will want oblivion rather than to face the Lord and the punishment their works have earned for them
  - Rev. 9:6 - “In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.”

# The Setting

- A terrible fellowship - The petty sinner and the greatest among the wicked will fall together before the throne of the Judge.
  - Rev. 21:8 - “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

# The Setting



- The Books
  - God doesn't forget un-forgiven sins
  - The book of life - God's record of the saved

# The Setting

- The Books
  - The books of judgment
  - John 12:46-49 - “I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness. 47 And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. 48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day. 49 For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.”

# The Setting

- All will be judged for sins of commission and sins of omission
  - Matt. 25:41-46 - “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting 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 take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' 44 Then they also will answer Him, 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, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch 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 everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

# The Setting

- For flagrant and open sin as well as secret sins
  - Rom. 2:16 - “in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.”
  - Ecc. 12:14 - “For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.”
- All will be judged not only for we have done, but also for what we are, sinners

# The Summons

- Rev. 20:13 - “The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.”
- There will be no hiding place
  - The Garden of Eden
  - A ship to Tarshish running from Nineveh
  - Or buried in a busy, secular life

# The Summons

- Every grave will give up the dead
  - John 5:24-29 - “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. 25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

# The Sentence

- Rev. 20:14-15 - “Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”
- The books are consulted and the sentence is given.
  - There is no room in this or any other text for making a defense or arguing our case.

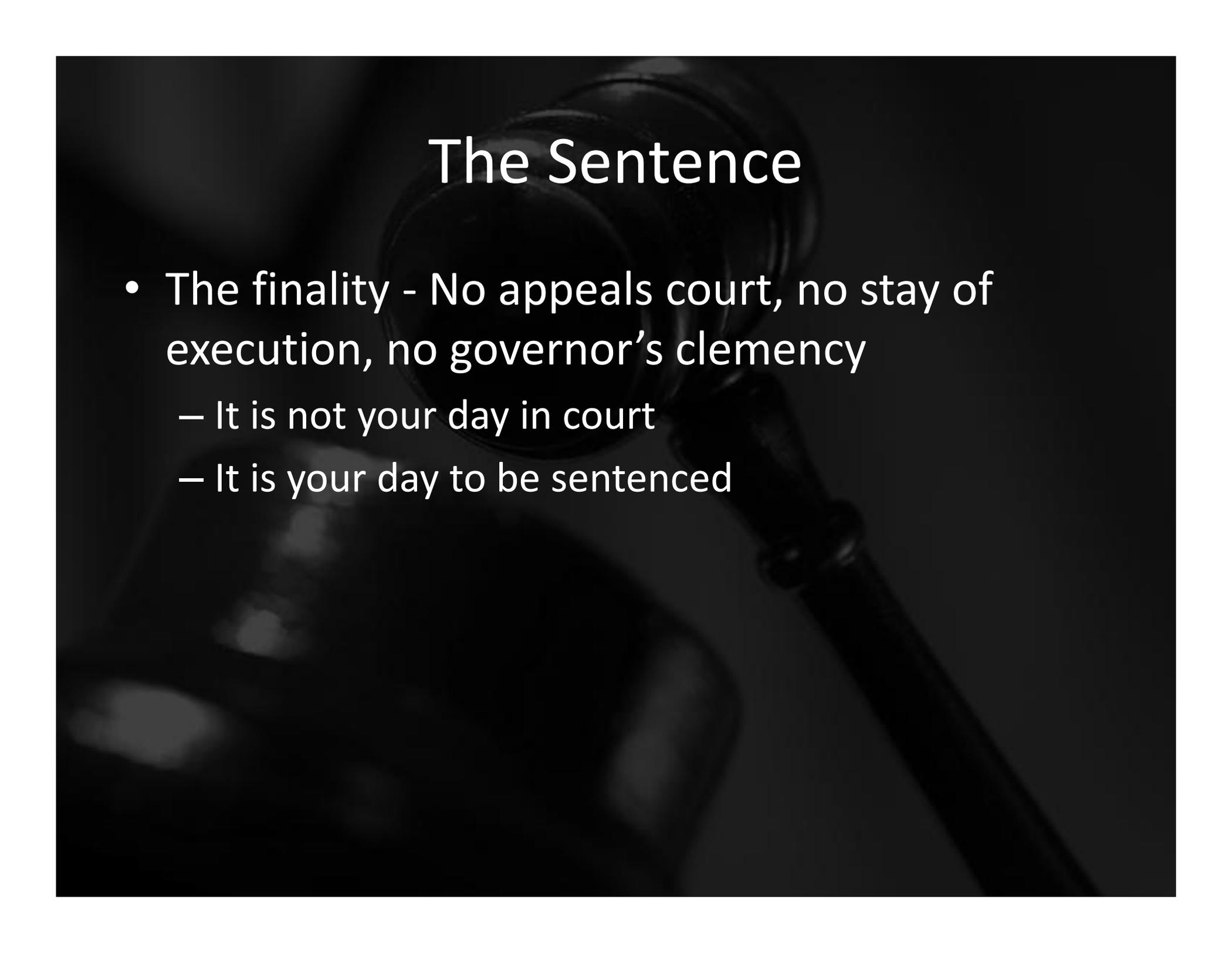
# The Sentence

- The fearfulness
  - Matt. 25:41 - “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels’”

# The Sentence

- Heb. 10:26-31 - “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. 28 Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord. And again, The LORD will judge His people. 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

# The Sentence



- The finality - No appeals court, no stay of execution, no governor's clemency
  - It is not your day in court
  - It is your day to be sentenced

# The Sentence

- That is the reason we preach lessons like this
  - 2Cor. 5:9-11 - “Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...”

# The Sentence

- Here is the good news: It is not too late today.
  - 2Peter 1:10 - “Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure...”
  - 2Cor. 6:2 - “...Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”