

Romans Session 25

Principles of God's Judgment Part 2 (1)

As we begin tonight we remember that we are looking at the six principles that Paul has laid out for the Judgment of God upon sin, and upon sinful man.

Knowledge (v-1)

Truth (v-2-3)

Guilt (v-4-5)

Deeds (v-6-10)

Impartiality (v-11-15)

Motive (v-16)

We have already talked about Knowledge and Truth, and Guilt, so we will now look at Deeds

DEEDS

Romans 2:6-10 (NKJV)

⁶ *who "will render to each one according to his deeds":*

⁷ *eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;*

⁸ *but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath,*

⁹ *tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;*

¹⁰ *but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

Paul is here continuing to talk about the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God. As we have seen before "the day of wrath" refers to God's final judgment of sinful mankind.

Peter refers to it as;

2 Peter 3:7c (NKJV)

⁷ *until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

Jude says it is:

Jude 1:6 (NKJV)

⁶ *for the judgment of the great day;*

Paul explains that it will occur at the second coming of Jesus Christ;

2 Timothy 4:1 (NKJV)

¹ *I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:*

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 (NKJV)

⁷ *and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,*

⁸ *in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Now this final judgment is described in some detail by John:

Revelation 20:11-15 (NKJV)

¹¹ *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.*

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.*

¹⁴ *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.*

Jesus declared that at that time:

Matthew 13:41-43 (NKJV)

⁴¹ *The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,*

⁴² *and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

⁴³ *Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!*

We need to remember that all of history is moving toward that awful day, when the sinful of all ages will **"fall into the hands of the living God (Heb 10:31)**

The story is told of an ancient Roman ruler named Brutus the Elder who discovered that his two sons were conspiring to overthrow the government, an offense that carried the death penalty. At the trial the young men tearfully pleaded with their father, calling him by endearing names and appealing to his paternal love.

Most of the crowd who had gathered at the court also pleaded for mercy. But because of the severity of the crime, and perhaps because being the ruler's sons made the men even more accountable and guilty of even worse treason, the father ordered and then witnessed their execution.

Someone has commented about the incident, *"the father was lost in the judge: the love of justice overcame all the fondness of the parent."*

God offers Himself as a Father to fallen mankind.

He pleads with them to come to Him for salvation through His Son, because He does not want, **"any to perish but for all to come to repentance (2Pet. 3:9)"**

But one day the opportunity for repentance will end.

And at that time God will execute His perfect judgment even more inexorably than that Roman ruler.

The first three of the six criteria God will employ in final judgment were discussed in our previous studies.

Now we look at the next which is deeds;

Although it is simple and straightforward, this passage embraces several truth that are easily misinterpreted if not studied carefully.

We are told twice that men will be judged according to their deeds.

This is not any different than that which is spoken of in the Old Testament.

Listen to Isaiah:

Isaiah 3:10-11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ *"Say to the righteous that it shall be well with them, For they shall eat the fruit of their doings.*

¹¹ *Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, For the reward of his hands shall be given him.*

And then Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 17:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ *I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.*

Then Jesus:

Matthew 16:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ *For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.*

Again speaking to believers Paul writes, *"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. (2 Cor. 5:10)."*

God does not judge on the basis of a religious profession, or religious relationships, or a religious heritage. But among other standards, He judges on the basis of the products of person's life.

The issue on the day of judgment will not be whether a person is a Jew or Gentile, whether he is a heathen or orthodox, whether he is religious or irreligious or whether he attends church or does not.

The issue will be whether or not his life has manifested obedience to God.

On that day:

Romans 14:12 (NKJV)

¹² *each of us shall give account of himself to God.*

Listen, the subjective criterion for salvation is faith alone, with nothing added.

But the objective reality of that salvation is manifested in the subsequent godly works that the Holy Spirit leads and empowers believers to perform. For that reason, good deeds are a perfectly valid basis for God's judgment.

A person's actions form an infallible index to his character.

Jesus said:

Matthew 7:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

Matthew 7:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

The works of a person's life are one of the unchanging basis upon which God will judge men.

Every man will one day face the divine Judge, who has a comprehensive record of that man's deeds, and by that record, the man's eternal destiny will be determined.

Now having said that, it must be made clear, of course, that although Scripture, both Old and New Testaments, teaches that judgment is by works, it nowhere teaches that salvation is by works.

Paul has said;

1 Timothy 1:15-16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

¹⁶ However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

To all believers Paul says;

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

So if Salvation is wholly by faith, then how do works enter the picture?

Paul continues teaching:

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

He is the same one who admonished the Philippians:

Philippians 2:12-13 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

In other words the life that is saved by faith is to give evidence of that salvation by doing God's work.

Outward godly works are the evidence of inner faith.

Again salvation is not by works, but it will assuredly produce works.

The presence of genuinely good deeds in a person's life reveals that he has truly been saved, and in God's infallible eyes those deeds are a perfectly reliable indicator of saving faith.

In the same way, the absence of genuinely good deeds reveals the absence of salvation.

In both cases, deeds become a trustworthy basis for God's judgment.

When God sees works that manifest righteousness, He knows if they have come from a regenerated heart. And when He sees works that manifest unrighteousness, He knows if they come from an un-regenerated heart.

In this passage of Romans chapter 2 verses 7-10 Paul draws a clear line between two classes of people, the only two classes that exist: the saved and the unsaved.

He focuses first on the determinative deeds of the redeemed (v-7), next on the determinative deeds of the unredeemed (v-8-9), and then again on the deeds of the redeemed (v-10)

When we get together the next time, we will look at both, the deeds of the redeemed, and the deeds of the unredeemed as Paul lays them out for the Roman church and also for us.