

TRUTH AND JUSTICE FOR ALL (Romans 2:1-16)

INTRODUCTION:

There is an old cliché which says, "There are only two things certain in life and they are death and taxes." Well, this is not the whole truth. There is something else certain – God’s judgment. The Bible says:

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. Heb 9:27

The Scriptures present a very consistent picture of the reality and certainty of God’s judgment. **“Shall the Judge of all the earth not do right,”** asked Abraham just prior to the judgment of Sodom. (Gen 18:25) The Psalms mention God coming to judge the world.(Psalm 96:13) The prophets warned of God’s coming judgment on all flesh (Isa 66:16). Jesus speaks of judging the nations in the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 25:32). And the apostle John had a vision of the “Great White Throne” judgment in Revelation

(Rev 20:11-12 NKJV) 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.

God’s judgment is certain. We all will stand before Him one day. Are you ready? I do not want to frighten anyone or to dwell on an unpleasant subject unnecessarily. But if God's judgment is certain, then it is better to think about it ahead of time and prepare for it, than it is to wait until we are faced with it before we give it serious thought. Wouldn't you say that this is a prudent approach?

What will be the basis of God’s judgment? Will he be lenient to some and harsh on others? Will he not judge Christians, but only judge those of other religions? Or will He only judge those who had a chance to hear the Gospel and not those who didn't? What will be the basis of God’s judgment? This is what Romans 2:1-16 will tell us, so let’s get right into it.

GOD’S JUDGMENT IS BASED ON TRUTH

First we see that God’s judgment is based on truth.

Rom 2:2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.

Paul contrasts man's judgment and God's judgment. Man's judgment is based on bias, and excuses. But God's judgment is based on the truth against those who do evil deeds.

We want to use the excuse that we are not as bad as a neighbor. We don't kill, steal, lie, or cheat. But those who do those things ought to be judged. But Paul precludes this excuse by showing that this attitude will actually heighten our guilt before God. Look at verse 1:

Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things

Harry Ironside tells the story of Bishop Potter. The good Bishop was sailing for Europe on one of the great ocean liners. When he went on board, he found that another passenger was to share the cabin with him. After going to see the accommodations, he came up to the purser's desk and inquired if he could leave his gold watch and other valuables in the ship's safe. He explained that ordinarily he never availed himself of that privilege, but he had been to his cabin and had met the man who was to occupy the other berth. Judging from his appearance, he was afraid that he might not be a very trustworthy person. The purser accepted the responsibility for the valuables and remarked, It's all right, Bishop, I'll be very glad to take care of them for you. The other man has been up here and left his for the same reason!

We can't tell God to look at someone else whom we think is in need of judgment more than we are. God's judgment is based on truth, not bias, nor bull. What is the truth that God's judgment is based on?

GOD'S JUDGEMENT IS BASED ON OUR ACTUAL DEEDS

What is the truth that God's judgment is based on? God's judgment will be based on our actual deeds. Verses 3 and 6:

(Rom 2:3-6 NKJV) And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? {6} who "will render to each one according to his deeds":

God's judgment will be based on our deeds. Verse 6 is actually a quote from Prov 24:12, **"If you say, "Surely we did not know this," Does not He who**

weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?"

Rev 20:12 reaffirms this basis of God's judgment, **"And the dead were judged according to their works."**

God is not bias in his judgment. He doesn't make things up to condemn us. Our very deeds and works will do that for us.

You may think that since God hasn't passed judgment on you you are free or you are doing alright. God waiting to pass judgment on you is to give you a chance to repent. If you don't repent, then that will be added to your judgment.

Romans 2:4

Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

God is good to each and every one of His creatures. Although mankind has willfully turned from God, He continues to be longsuffering towards us. As Jesus taught, "God sends the rain on the just and the unjust." Through God's common grace He restrains many of the evils which man can and would do if unrestrained.

God is patient and longsuffering to all of us.

When the infidel Robert G. Ingersoll, the famous atheist, was delivering his lectures against Christ and the Bible, his oratorical ability usually assured him of a large crowd. One night after an inflammatory speech in which he severely attacked man's faith in the Savior, he dramatically took out his watch and said, "I'll give God a chance to prove that He exists and is almighty. I challenge Him to strike me dead within 5 minutes!" First there was silence, and then people became uneasy. Some left the hall, unable to take the nervous strain of the occasion, and one woman fainted. At the end of the allotted time, the atheist exclaimed derisively, "See! There is no God. I am still very much alive!"

After the lecture a young fellow said to a Christian lady, "Well, Ingersoll certainly proved something tonight!" Her reply was memorable. "Yes he did," she said. "He demonstrated that even the most defiant sinner cannot exhaust the patience of the Lord in just 5 minutes!"

God is longsuffering towards us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

God is good and longsuffering to all of us, but for the most part we refuse to repent of our sins and thereby are storing up wrath on the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.

J. B. Lightfoot wrote, "The blackest of sin is not righteousness violated, but mercy despised."

Are you ready to give an account of all the times you refused to repent and were hardened to God's longsuffering and goodness?

GOD'S JUDGEMENT IS WITHOUT PARTIALITY

Verse 11 mentions that God's judgment is without partiality, **(Rom 2:11 NKJV) For there is no partiality with God.**"

All mankind knows intuitively that they have violated God's moral law at one time or other. Those who had exposure to the Old Testament teaching of God's moral law like the 10 Commandments know that they fall short of keeping that law. Those who didn't have knowledge of the OT moral law still have the "work of the law" in their conscience. All people know that they do not live up to their own moral standard.

(Rom 2:15 NKJV) who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

Therefore God is not partial in his judgment. He judges in truth and He judges based on actual deeds.

For as many as have sinned without law will also perish (be judged) without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law.

God's standard of judgment will be based on our own knowledge of good and evil. It will be based on how we have responded to the opportunities to repent. It will be based on our actual deeds.

The point is that all mankind will come before God in judgment and give an account of every word we speak, every thought we think, and every deed we have done. God will base us on that. Are you ready?

GOD'S JUDGEMENT WILL BE BASED ON THE GOSPEL

Finally God's judgment will be based on the Gospel.

(Rom 2:16 NKJV) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Jesus Christ will be the judge in that day. The good news is that He not only will be the prosecuting attorney and Judge, but He will be the defending advocate of those who accept His offer of pardon. He as the Judge has a great “out of court” settlement to offer. He as our defense attorney strongly suggests that we take it.

We all need to listen to His offer and accept His “out of court” settlement beforehand.. Before we get before the judgment bar of God we need to accept the plea bargain offered by the prosecuting attorney. What is that settlement? It is to admit your guilt and then accept God’s offer of pardon in Christ. It is because His Son has paid the penalty of our sins that we can receive a full pardon beforehand. His “out of court” settlement is to enroll us into the Book of Life before the great day of Judgment. Listen again to Revelation 20:11-12:

(Rev 20:11-12 NKJV) 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.

To those whose name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life God has shared the life of His Son with them. They are his children through faith in Christ. They have been washed, cleansed, justified and redeemed.

Are you trusting in Christ and are living a life of devotion to Christ our loving Judge, our adequate defense attorney?

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, judgment is coming. Whether you don't know God's law, it's coming. Whether you don't want to know God's law, it's coming. Whether you try to keep it and can't, it's coming.

God's judgment is certain. It will be based on the same truth for all people, and it will take into account our response to His goodness and the amount of light we have of him and what we do with His offer of pardon.

It will not help anyone to deny the fact of God's judgment. What will help is to turn to God in faith and repentance and trust in the provision of His Son.

Are you ready to face God's certain judgment?

Amen? Amen!