



## Christian Life Fellowship

Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ



### Judgment Day

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#### **Introduction:**

Last week we ended our discussion of sin with a consideration of the downward spiral of sin. The subject of sin is one that is very serious. Every single person with the exception of Christ Himself has sinned. It is easy to point fingers at others and see their life-style and judge it and condemn it, but Paul goes on in his letter to talk about how we condemn *ourselves* when we judge other people.

God is the one who brings justice to people and we should not put ourselves in the place of God when it comes to judging them. There is both a negative and positive side to judgment. The negative side is the consequences of doing things that God's word points out are wrong. The positive side is the consequences of doing things that God's word indicates are right. Those things God will reward.

Jesus tells a story in [Matthew 25:14-30](#) about three servants who were each given the minimum of a talent. Two went out and doubled what they had been given. They were rewarded. The third went and hid the talent and gave it back unprofitable. In the story he was condemned and suffered for how he had used what he had been given. They were judged by what they did with what they had been given. We will all be judged by what we do with what God gives us. [Romans 2:6](#)

#### **I. God's judgment on sin. [Romans 2:5-11](#)**

The theme that Paul continues here is one of God's righteous judgment. This is the only place in the New Testament that this Greek term is used. It literally means equitable decision. The decisions made by God are fair and equitable. God's judgment will be based on facts. What Paul is referring to is a future experience. When God executes His righteous judgment, it will happen at the end of the age.

Look at the judge for a moment. A judge has to be familiar with law. A judge should be unbiased. A judge should be fair and base decisions only on facts. God is the ultimate judge and every one of us will stand before Him someday. Judgment will be based on His character and personality. This judgment will be certain. No one will be exempt. Everyone will be judged. It will be without partiality. God is no respecter of persons. When you stand before God you will stand there alone. No one will answer for you. God will not cut you slack

because of who your dad or mom was or who your husband or wife was. It is at that time that our relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit will be of utmost importance. Jesus and the Holy Spirit will be ready to present facts about our life to God the Father.

We have to remember that God is the judge and we are not. All too often we get the feeling that we can justify our own selves by pointing out the sin of others around us. Have you ever found yourself in the position of categorizing and rating sin? Do you ever think, "This sin is worse than this sin." If you haven't figured it out yet – sin is sin and all of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. At times it is easy to see the faults and shortcomings in other people, while being blind to the things that are wrong in our own lives. Paul warns here to be careful. We do the same things that others do and yet we get the feeling that our sin is not as bad.

Be assured that all sin separates us from God. We have to repent of all sin in order to be forgiven. If we don't deal with sin, the end result and consequence will be eternal death. Keep in mind that all sin except blaspheming the Holy Spirit is forgivable.

Paul makes it clear that when we are stubborn and refuse to turn from sin, we are storing up judgment and punishment for ourselves. God has made a way for us to not live in condemnation and not suffer the penalty of sin and that is through repentance. Repentance is a desire and decision to turn from our sin and leave it alone, by having a change of heart, mind, and direction. God is kind and long suffering toward us so that we might get it right and come to that place of repentance. God, who is our righteous judge, stands ready to forgive all accusations and motions against us. The judgments against us can be cancelled if we are willing to accept the terms of that agreement.

I have a feeling that these Jewish believers were falling into the same trap that we often face as believers and that is judging the sin of others. Paul had just written about the sins of homosexuality, of violence and idol worship.

Perhaps there were some that he wrote to that were by this point feeling very good about themselves. They may have thought, "I don't do any of those things that Paul has written about. I guess they

really are sinners and I'm not really all that bad." It amazes me that sometimes we are more baffled at God's patience with others than humbled at his patience with us. At times we can find ourselves saying, "I can't believe that God doesn't deal with that sin in that person." Yet when God is patient with us, rather than being humbled, we become proud. Our arrogant attitude says, "I am not as bad." When that happens we have fallen prey to categorizing sin. The consequences of sin are not usually immediate, however they are sure.

## II. God's judgment of our works.

What will Christ base this judgment on? It will be based on works. Not what you say but what you did. Public verification will be the evidence – the fruit of our lives will be our works. Life choices that we make will determine what happens when we stand before God.

Those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow after evil make a decision to do so at their own peril. For those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers, God will give eternal life. The works and fruit of your life will be what will bring the pleasure and joy of Christ, or what will bring the anger of Christ. **2 Cor. 5:10- For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in our bodies.**

**1 Cor. 3:15- But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builders themselves will be saved, but like someone escaping through a wall of flames.**

The things that we are going to be judged on will be our thoughts and words our witness, our decisions about money and our service. In the story I related from Matthew at the start of my message, Jesus indicated that there was reward and approval and affirmation for those who had been productive with what they had been given. There was loss and punishment and reprimand for the one who did nothing productive with what he had been given.

The good news is that those who serve God, those who obey Him, those who live their lives striving to follow Him are going to be given eternal life and share the joy of the One they served. The wonderful

side to judgment is that there is reward for good. Often when we think of judgment we think of the punishment that goes with judgment and the consequences of broken laws and the consequences of retribution. **John 15:4-5- Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch can-not produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot**

**be fruitful apart from me. "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:8- My true disciples produce much fruit. This brings great glory to my Father.**

### **Conclusion:**

We know that judgment day is coming. IT is inevitable for all of us. If you haven't acknowledged the sin in your life, this morning is a perfect opportunity for you to do so and accept God's mercy and grace. If you have done so, this is also a moment for you to look at what you are doing for the sake of God's kingdom and evaluate that. We have this moment to do something of significance for God's kingdom.

I said this last week – and today we are one week closer to Christ's coming one day, all we see here will someday be gone. WHAT are you building your life on? When your life is done here, you will be judged by God. You will not answer for anyone else but yourself. Take a step today and determine to better use your resources for the fruitfulness of God's work. That could be using some of the time you have for God's work, it could be using some of the money you have for God's work or it could be using some of the ability God has given you for God's work. Maybe it is telling someone about Jesus or praying for someone to be healed. Perhaps you need to repent of something and have a change of heart and mind and direction. NOW IS YOUR TIME!