Mt. Wade Missionary Baptist Church

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WELL DOERS -VS- EVIL DOERS IN JUDGEMENT

Romans 2:5-10

But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

PART 1

When it comes to the judgement of God, everyone will be either eternally rewarded or eternally punished. No one shall be exempt; no one will escape. According to Paul’s letter, judgment is to be based upon a man’s deeds (ergon) or works. This does not mean that faith is not necessary. Contrariwise, there is no such thing as …

• faith without works

• righteous and acceptable works without faith

The works that are truly of and for God, that truly please God, are the result of faith. Men believe in and serve and work for many different things in the world. Some believe and work …

• for religion

• for service organizations

• for social clubs

• for humanity

What God demands is that men first believe and work for Him, reaching out to a world lost and gripped in desperate need. When a man truly believes God, he works for God. (Js. 2:17, Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.) God is going to either reward or punish every man according to his works, according to what he has done with and for God.

1. There shall be the well-doer’s (v. 7) wonderful reward. Note three things about the well-doer.
2. Notice what he seeks. He seeks glory, honor, and immortality.
3. Notice how the well-doer seeks. By patient continuance (hupomone). The word means to be steadfast and constant; to endure, persevere, stick to, and continue. The well-doer is faithful in doing good works.

* He does not just start, he finishes.
* He does not live an inconsistent, up and down life. He continues and keeps on doing good deeds.
* He does not give in to hardships, difficulties, or opposition. He endures and perseveres, always doing good.

We should never get tired of doing good. God will reward us. The Bible says, “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (Ga. 6:9).

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” (He. 12:1).

Look at the reward of the well-doer. He gains eternal life.

Eternal life is said to be the inheritance of a world of glory, honor, and peace. However the evil-doer’s will experience a terrible and severe judgment. The evil-doer is to be judged for three reasons.

1. He is in conflict with God (Ro. 2:8). The evil-doer does not like what God says; therefore, he strives against it. He wrangles and wrestles, struggles and fights against God. He refuses to buckle under and surrender to God’s will. When dealing with God, the evil-doer is contentious (argumentative and controversial).
2. He does not obey the truth. He sees and hears and knows the truth. He even knows the truth is to be done, but he refuses to do it. He refuses to be persuaded and refuses to believe. He rejects both Christ, the Living Truth, and the Word of God, the written truth. He simply goes about his own life, running and controlling it as he wills. He rejects and refuses to believe and to do the truth.
3. He lives in unrighteousness.

Punishment is assured: Every evil-doer is to be judged, both Jew and Gentile. No evil-doer shall escape. “Every soul of man that doeth evil” shall suffer, and the judgment will be severe and terrible. His judgment will involve indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish

* “And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (Mt. 25:46).
* “He will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable” (Lu. 3:17).
* “And that servant, which knew his lord’s will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes” (Lu. 12:47).
* “But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath” (Ro. 2:8).
* “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power” (2 Th. 1:7–9).
* “Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?” (He. 10:29).
* “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished” (2 Pe. 2:9).
* “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Re. 20:15).
* “Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup” (Ps. 11:6).
* “And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible” (Is. 13:11).
* “For, behold, the Lord cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain” (Is. 26:21).
* “According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompense to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompense” (Is. 59:18).
* “But I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings, saith the Lord: and I will kindle a fire in the forest thereof, and it shall devour all things round about it” (Je. 21:14).
* “For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch” (Mal. 4:1).

Every well-doer is to be rewarded, both Jew and Gentile. No well-doer shall be exempt or overlooked. “Every man that worketh good” shall receive …

* immortality (v. 7)
* eternal life (v. 7)
* glory (vv. 7, 10)
* honor (vv. 7, 10)
* peace (v. 10)

PART 2

The judgment of the only living and true God is without respect of persons. God’s judgment will be executed with absolute impartiality, showing no favoritism whatsoever. God has no favorites. God does not show partiality; He does not favor the…

* moralist
* religionist
* educated
* wealthy
* benevolent
* famous
* honorable

God favors no one. All men stand on an equal footing before God’s judgment. God loves and cares for all, but He has no favorites and shows no partiality. Therefore, in the great day of judgment, all will be judged by the same rule and by the same principle.

1. The man who sins without the law and the man who sins in the law will both be judged. Again, sin is the basis of judgment. Men will be judged for sin.
2. The man who sins without law (anomos) will also perish without law. The word for law is a general word. It refers to the law of God in both the Scriptures and nature. Therefore, the man who does not have the law of Scripture does have the law of nature to guide him. If he sins against the law of nature, he will still be judged and perish. He had the opportunity to know through nature itself. (Remember is Romans 1, God reveal himself through creation the we might know Him.)
3. The man who sins “in the law” will be judged by the law. His judgment, of course, will be greater, for he had every privilege and opportunity imaginable.

Scripture Ref.

* “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him” (Ac. 10:34–35).
* “And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith” (Ac. 15:9).
* “For there is no respect of persons with God” (Ro. 2:11).
* “For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him” (Ro. 10:12).

1. The doers and not the hearers of the law will be justified. It is not enough to have the law or the Word of God; it is not enough …

* to hear and see it
* to understand and know it
* to possess and profess it
* to proclaim and teach it

A person must be a doer of the law; he must obey and live the law. The law was not given just to sit on a bookshelf or on a table, not given just to be heard and to secure verbal agreement. The law was given to be obeyed and lived out, to govern and control life so that life could be lived to the fullest. Therefore, those who only hear the law will not be justified before God, but the doers of the law will be justified.

Possessing, having, hearing, and even proclaiming the law (the Word of God) is not enough to save a person. A person must keep the law; he must live and do the will of God. The Bible says, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Mt. 7:21).

Scripture Ref.

* “For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother” (Mt. 12:50).
* “Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will show you to whom he is like: he is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great” (Lu. 6:47–49).
* “If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” (Jn. 13:17).
* “For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified” (Ro. 2:13).
* “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (Js. 1:22).
* “Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge” (Js. 4:11).
* “And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 Jn. 2:17).
* “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city” (Re. 22:14).

1. Men have their consciences that bear witness to what is right and wrong. When they do right, they sense approval; when they do wrong, they sense reproach. Man’s conscience gives him the opportunity to live righteously and to do good.

* “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” (He. 9:14).
* “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water” (He. 10:22).
* “Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake” (Ro. 13:5).

Men have their thoughts, their reasoning ability which can approve or disapprove, excuse or accuse them and others. Men’s thoughts bear witness to how they should and should not live, whether their behavior is excused (acceptable) or accused (condemned). Note two critical points.

1. First, men can learn a great deal about God and about right and wrong through their nature, conscience, and thoughts. Men can look at themselves and creation and learn that they are to live …

• by order, law, and rules

• in obedience, respect, and peace

• giving recognition, honor, and esteem

• being clean, pure, and moral

• showing care, concern, and love

• without stealing, lying, and cheating

(Ro. 1:19-20)

1. Second, men cannot be saved apart from Jesus Christ. No matter how morally they may live. Whether they live by law or by nature, they do not live a sinless and perfect life. They sin and come short of God’s glory. Therefore, no matter how morally men live, they have to be perfected in the “righteousness of God” which is in Christ Jesus Himself.”

* “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (Jn. 14:6).
* “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Ac. 4:12).