

05/01/22 Message

Part of Romansthe Life of Faith - the Power of Grace
April 29, 2022

Message: The Judgment Seat

Series: Romans

This is our fourteenth message in the series Romans: the Life of Faith – the Power of Grace.

As one of Paul’s epistles (or letters), Romans is considered the greatest of all his letters. It’s been called one of the most foundational documents of Christianity.

Introduction

Although the passage today is Romans 14, the message culminates from this:

Romans 14:10 (NLT)

...Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

Romans 14:12 (NLT)

Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God.

Give an Account

- Only the SAVED will appear before the judgment seat

Those who aren’t saved, won’t be there.

Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23, “Not everyone who calls out to me will enter the kingdom of heaven. On judgment day, many will cry out to me, telling me all the things they’ve done... but I will reply – depart from me, I never knew you!”

Not everyone will enter the kingdom of heaven.

- Christians will have WORKS judged at the judgment seat

David said in Psalm 103 –

- He forgives all my sins (v3)
- He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west (v12)

Saved people won't have their sin judged in heaven because their sin won't make it to heaven with them! If you've asked forgiveness - Jesus has forgiven you - debt paid - wiped clean - cast as far as the east is from the west!

—Pastor Chad

- Christians will be REWARDED at the judgment seat

In Revelation 22:12, God says - I'm coming soon, and my reward is with me to pay each one according to what he has done.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 says, "But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the building will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames."

What are the rewards?

- Crowns
 - Crown of Victory (1 Corinthians 9:25-27)
 - Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19)
 - Crown of Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8)
 - Crown of Life (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10)
 - Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:4)
- Treasure (Matthew 6:20; 1 Peter 1:4)
- Accolades or Commendations (Matthew 25:21; Luke 19:14; 1 Corinthians 4:5)
- Promise to Overcomers (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26)
- Promise of Special Responsibilities (Matthew 19:28; 24:45-47; 25:21, 23; Luke 19:17-19; 22:29-30; Revelation 2:26)

Why is Paul talking about the judgment seat?

Unity

There were problems in the fellowship of the Roman church, unity was threatened. In Ephesians 4:2 he says, "Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love."

Usually, disagreements in church have to do with stupid assumptions leading people to do and say stupid things. There's no other humble and gentle way to say it. Actually, there is... most conflicts can be avoided, and if not, most can be neutralized by simply directly with the person you have a conflict with.

—Pastor Chad

Romans 14:1 (NLT)

Accept other believers who are weak in faith, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong.

- ACCEPT others
- DON'T ARGUE with others

Romans 14:2-3 (NLT)

2 For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables.

3 Those who feel free to eat anything must not look down on those who don't. And those who don't eat certain foods must not condemn those who do, for God has accepted them.

- It's not about YOU

Romans 14:4 (NLT)

Who are you to condemn someone else's servants? They are responsible to the Lord, so let him judge whether they are right or wrong. And with the Lord's help, they will do what is right and will receive his approval.

- You're not the JUDGE, God is

It is encouraging to know that our success in the Christian life does not depend on the opinions or attitudes of other Christians. God is the Judge, and He is able to

make us stand. The word “servant” here suggests Christians ought to be busy working for the Lord; then they will not have the time or inclination to judge or condemn other Christians. People who are busy winning souls for Christ have more important things to do than investigate others’ lives.

—Warren Wiersbe

Romans 14:10-11 (NLT)

10 So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.

11 For the Scriptures say, “‘As surely as I live,’ says the LORD, ‘every knee will bend to me, and every tongue will confess and give praise to God.’”

Verse 11 refers to Isaiah 45:23 and Paul is so convinced of it, he quotes it again in Philippians 2:10-11.

Romans 14:13 (NLT)

So let’s stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.

- We NEED each other

Romans 14:17-19 (NLT)

17 For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

18 If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too.

19 So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.

- The church-life goal is HARMONY
- Paul is saying, get it TOGETHER

Romans 14:20 (NLT)

Don’t tear apart the work of God...

Romans 14:22 (NLT)

You may believe there’s nothing wrong with what you are doing, but

keep it between yourself and God. Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right.

- It's between YOU and GOD - no one else

This is a blueprint for handling any conflict in life - btw. It doesn't have to be in church. It can be at your workplace, at school, with your neighbor, between friends, with family... go to the person directly and alone. Most of the time, you find it was you who misunderstood the situation - and the other person did nothing wrong. And if they did - often it's because they misunderstood the situation. Once you talk about it - once you communicate in an open and honest way - with gentleness and humility, with love and respect, people often walk away closer than they were to start with!

—Pastor Chad

It's the judgment seat of Christ (not another person). It's not a place for persecution (a verdict or a sentence), it's a place for rewards!

What if we looked at life this way... what if we looked at church this way... what if we sought daily to dish out a few more rewards and a hefty dose of positivity instead of criticism or negativity... It's time we take a fresh look at the judgment seat - and make it a place we look forward to!

—Pastor Chad