

God Judges According to Deeds
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Text: Romans 2:6-10

Romans: [Bibliography](#) or [Manuscripts and Greek Exegesis](#)

UBS 4th Edition Paragraph Topic: The Righteous Judgment of God

Central Idea of Message: God will judge every act and determine whether it was good or evil.

Introduction: This passage prompts all of us to take heed. Those attempting to attain righteousness apart from Christ must quickly see this as impossible and turn to him in faith and repentance. Those who are believers must live righteously, knowing that God will judge all deeds accordingly. God's judgment will be neither biased nor distorted. God judges according to deeds.

I. God Renders Judgment According to Deeds (v. 6)

A. The Bible does not say God renders *salvation* according to works but that he renders *judgment* according to works (cf. Ps. 62:12)

1. Outward activity reveals inward conviction (cf. Mickelsen 1188)
 - a) Actions disclose beliefs, or the lack thereof
 - b) Faith without works is dead faith (cf. James 2:17)
2. Heavenly rewards are at stake for Christians (cf. 1 Cor. 3:10-15)
3. Eternal condemnation is at stake for unbelievers
4. **"How, in the last analysis, can God judge people other than by actions" (Barclay 51)?**

B. Fruit is determined by the nature of the tree (cf. McBeth 70-1)

1. **The prerequisite to having the fruit of the Spirit in our lives is first to have the Spirit (cf. Rom. 8:9, 12-17; Gal. 5:22-23)**
2. **Judgment is both according to faith, the inner exam, and according to works, the outer exam**
3. God will judge every act, everything thought to be hidden, and determine whether it was good or evil (cf. Eccles. 12:14)

II. **God Renders Eternal Life to Those with Genuine Faith (v. 7)**

- A. Those who persevere in doing good
1. Outwardly demonstrate the inward presence of saving faith
 2. Seek glory, honor, and immortality
 - a) From God, not man
 - b) According to God's way and not man's way
 - c) **Would you rather be popular with God or with people?**
 3. Obtain eternal life because their faith and repentance were genuine
 - a) **Eternal life is a result of God's gift, not human achievement**
 - b) **Genuine believers recognize that their good works are neither ends in themselves nor marks of human achievement, but evidences of their faith and hope in God almighty (cf. Barrett 47)**
- B. Those who refuse to believe the truth will inherit God's wrath and fury
1. Banishment to hell to pay eternally for their sins which they refused to let Christ's atoning work forgive
 2. **"Faith that fizzles before the finish was faulty from the first" (Vernon Liles)**

III. **God Renders Wrath and Indignation to Those Not Obeying Truth (vv. 8-10)**

- A. Those who are selfishly ambitious and not obeying the truth, but instead obey unrighteousness, reap wrath and indignation (v. 8)
1. Truth is the revealed will of God which should be believed and lived (cf. McBeth 71)
 - a) Is truth debatable? No!
 - b) Is truth debated?
 - (1) Yes!
 - (2) Why?
 - (a) **Truth is debated because people do not want to admit that truth can be found**
 - (b) **Truth is debated because people do not want to admit that God's truth is absolute truth**
 - (c) **Truth is debated because people do**

- not want to admit that God's truth
is binding upon all
- (d) **Truth is debated because people
want to maintain sinful lifestyles
and not be told they are wrong**
2. **The unrepentant are refusing to believe and obey
God**
- a) They can repent and believe, but will not
- b) Truth will have no persuasive influence over
those who are selfishly ambitious,
rebellious, and unrepentant
3. Promised punishment: wrath
4. Promised suffering: indignation
5. For persuading themselves: **πειθομένοις**
- a) Selfishly ambitious, partisan agitators (cf.
Vincent 3:26)
- b) Unbelievers persuade themselves to obey
unrighteousness instead of truth
- c) **Those who refuse to be servants of truth soon
become slaves of unrighteousness (cf. Henry
6:376)**
- d) And we just thought everybody was against
slavery because it's horribly inhumane,
brutal, cruel, savage, and evil!
- B. Tribulation and distress are for all evil doers (v. 9)
1. The Jews precede Gentiles in judgment
2. The Jews gladly accepted the blessings of election
- a) But they became hypocritical, legalistic, and
self-righteous, and even developed an
unmistakable air of spiritual superiority
- b) As is evident with the Jews, election
obviously does not mean automatic salvation!
- c) Talk about a license to sin, the Jews thought
they had one!
- d) The Jews are first in privilege and first in
penalty (cf. Amos 3:2; Robertson 4:336)
- e) **Fuller revelation establishes greater
accountability**
- f) **We are accountable to God for all we could
have been but are not**
3. Where there is no genuine faith and repentance
there will be evil workings rewarded with
tribulation and distress
- C. Glory, honor, and peace are promised to every human who
does good (v. 10)

1. No person can consistently do good
2. No person can do "godly" good aside from faith in God coupled with repentance
3. Regardless of race, ethnic origin, or lineage good works follow faith and repentance and these are rewarded with glory, honor, and peace from God, not from men
4. **"To every man [person]": None are underprivileged when it comes to receiving eternal life!**
5. To the Jew first and also to the Greek: "On the one hand, the Jew will not be excused because he has the law; but on the other hand, the Gentile will not be excused because he lacks it" (Cragg 409-10)

Conclusion: This passage prompts all of us to take heed. Those attempting to attain righteousness apart from Christ must quickly see this as impossible and turn to him in faith and repentance. Those who are believers must live righteously, knowing that God will judge all deeds accordingly.