

## The Coming Day of God's Righteous Judgment (*Part 2*)

### *Romans 2:1-16*

**Sermon-in-a-Sentence:** In the day of God's righteous judgment, He will reward each person according to what he has done.

Psalm 51 is the remedy for the self-righteous religious hypocrite (vss. 1 to 4). We will not escape the judgment of God by trying to divert His attention away from ourselves by pointing out the sins of others! In Psalm 51 King David models for us the attitude of humble repentance that secures the mercy, forgiveness and cleansing that we so desperately need when we sin against God.

In Romans 2:5-16, Paul continues to warn the stubborn and unrepentant that they are storing up God's wrath for the day of judgment.

#### **Romans 2:5**

- Romans 1:18-32 – those who reject God and the truth of His Word are today, at the present time, under the wrath and judgment of God. (cf. John 3:16-18, 36)
- Romans 2:5-16 – there is also a future day of judgment when God will pour out His wrath on the unrepentant.

#### **Romans 2:6**

- On the day of judgment God will reward each person according to his deeds.
- Does this contradict the Bible's teaching that no one is saved by good works? (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-5; Isaiah 65:6) Absolutely not!
- No one will be saved by their works; nevertheless, God will judge and reward all men on the basis of their works.
- This includes believers. (2 Corinthians 5:9-10; Matthew 16:27; Ephesians 6:7-8; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15)

#### **Romans 2:7-11**

- People are not saved by their good works; rather, those who are saved will do good works. Good works—acts of faith and obedience to the Word of God—are the visible evidence of a person's salvation.
- "According to this verse (vs. 7), it seems that **eternal life** can be gained by **doing good**. But Romans clearly teaches justification by faith (e.g., 3:22). But Paul does not contradict himself. The subject of this verse is *judgment*, not *justification*. Believers who continue in good works will receive rewards in the life to come. Whenever the New Testament speaks of eternal life as a present possession, it is a gift received by faith (John 3:16); but whenever it refers to eternal life as something to be received in the future by those who are already believers, it refers to eternal rewards... [Our eternal] Rewards will be based on works accomplished here on earth." (*The New King James Study Bible, p. 1881*)
- So those who are stubborn and unrepentant are storing up wrath for themselves in the day of God's judgment (vs. 5) and those who persist in doing good are storing up rewards for

themselves in the day of God's judgment (vs. 7).

### **Romans 2:12-16**

- What about those who have never heard the law of God?
  - Verse 13 – We demonstrate the reality of our faith by our works of obedience to the will of the Father and the words of the Son. (cf. Matthew 7:21-27)
  - It's not those who hear; it's those who obey!
  - "We are not saved by good deeds, but when we commit our lives fully to God, we want to please him and do his will. As such, our good deeds are a grateful response to what God has done, not a prerequisite to earning his grace." (*The Life Application Study Bible, p. 2030*)
- God will judge people on the basis of the spiritual light they have received.
  - Those who have received the law, those who have heard the Gospel, will be judged on the basis of what they have received.
  - Those who have not heard the law of God, who have not heard the Gospel, will not be judged on the basis of the law or the Gospel.
  - They will be judged on the basis of the spiritual light they have received, and God will demonstrate His righteousness, justice and fairness by showing that they have failed to live up even to the light that they did receive.
  - They will be convicted by their own guilty conscience since they have failed to live up to their own standards.
- For those who never have the opportunity to hear the law or the Gospel, God has not left Himself without testimony: There is the testimony of: 1) Creation (Romans 1:18-20); and there is the testimony of 2) Conscience (Romans 2:14-15). And both of these witnesses are sufficient to leave Man without excuse before God. (Romans 3:20)
- "Gentiles who do not have the Law still do such things as honoring their parents [caring for the sick and elderly...and condemning adultery], which indicates that they believe in a basic moral law... They know within their hearts that there is a difference between right and wrong. This 'law of conscience' serves as a judge to them in place of Moses' law" [or Jesus' Gospel]. (*The New King James Study Bible, p. 1881; NIV Study Bible, p. 1708*)
- God will judge both the outward deeds of men and the inward motives of their heart.
- He will show no partiality and He will perfectly demonstrate His righteousness and justice so that no one will be able to accuse Him of being unfair.
- The only hope of salvation for "good" people is to hear the Gospel, repent of their sins and put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.