

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

⁶ who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:

⁷ to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, (*He will give*) eternal life;
⁸ but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, (*there will be*) wrath and indignation.

⁹ (*There will be*) tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek,
¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

¹¹ For there is no partiality with God.

(Romans 2:6-11)

¹² For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law;

¹³ for *it is* not the hearers of the Law *who* are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified.

(Romans 2:12-13)

One Possible Solution:

➤ Theoretical/Hypothetical View

- Paul upholds faithful obedience to the Law as a theoretical means of justification
- the power of sin prevents anyone from meeting this condition in order to merit salvation
- God provides the only means of salvation by faith in Christ apart from works

Judgment According to Works?

- *At the judgment of God, good works will be the necessary, open vindication and evidence of an authentic faith that unites us to Christ by which we are saved*

Judgment According to Works?

1. Fruit Not Foundation

- a lifestyle of good works is the fruit of saving faith not the means of meriting salvation
- this fruit is necessary as the evidence of authentic faith but not as contributing to our justification

Judgment According to Works?

➤ “Doers of the Law will be justified”?

- at the future judgment by God, doers of the Law will be vindicated not punished
- this future, public vindication will accord with a life-style of keeping the Law

Judgment According to Works?

2. Direction Not Perfection

- Paul is describing the general lifestyle of those who do good, not those who perfectly obey
- these descriptions assume a repentant faith by those who do good and an unrepentant heart by those who do evil

Judgment According to Works?

²⁶ So if the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision?

²⁷ And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Law, will he not judge you who though having the letter of the Law and circumcision are a transgressor of the Law? ²⁸ For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

(Romans 2:26-29)

Judgment According to Works?

²² But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your fruit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 6:22-23)

Judgment According to Works?

¹² So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

(Romans 8:12-13)