

Romans: Verse-by-Verse

Romans 2:5-6

Two Stages of Judgment: 1. Those who rejected the truth and embraced the lie will be judged when they die. 2. At the final judgment God will render the last verdict.

Paul is telling the moralizers that their refusal to accept God's mercy is in fact storing up God's wrath. Why? Without a mediator between God and us our sins and future punishment keep mounting. See Matthew 23:13-15; I John 2:23

- **Unrepentant Hearts:**

In v. 5 we find the word "hard" or "unrepentant". Greek word: "sklērotēs". We get a medical term from that same word: "sclerosis".

"Hardening of the arteries may take you to the grave, but hardening of the heart will take you to hell." – John MacArthur

Different versions: "impenitent", "non-repentant", "unconverted", or "unchanged heart". Ezekiel 36:26: "stony heart". Ezekiel 3:7: Israel's "hardheartedness"

Jesus also talked about hard hearts. Matthew 19:8; Mark 3:5; Mark 8:17; John 12:40.

- **God Judges Humans By Their Deeds (Works, Behavior):**

Verse 6-8: God "will give to each person according to what he has done. 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-

seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

- God judges humans on the basis of knowledge, truth, guilt – **and now deeds or actions.**
- **Two Main Judgments** -- New Testament. 1. The “Bema” judgment involves Christ’s rewards for the Christian. 2. “The Great White Throne” Judgment.

1. What is the Bema Judgment?

The judgment seat of Christ involves believers giving an account of their lives to Christ:

- Romans 14:10–12: “For we will all stand before God’s judgment seat ...So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God” (ESV).

- 2 Corinthians 5:10: “We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”

- Christians, not unbelievers are the subjects of this judgment.
- The judgment seat of Christ does not determine salvation. See I John 2:2; Romans 8:1. Believers are rewarded according to faithfulness. See: 1 Corinthians 9:4-27; 2 Timothy 2:5

The New Testament “Crowns”: 1 Corinthians 9:24-25; 2 Timothy 4:8; James 1:12; 1Peter 5:4; Revelation 2:10

2. What is the “Great White Throne Judgment”?

The great white throne judgment is described in Revelation 20:7-15 tells us this judgment will take place after the Millennium and after

Satan, the beast, and the false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:7-10).

- The books that are opened (Revelation 20:12) contain records of everyone's deeds, whether they are good or evil. See: Psalm 28:4; 62:12; Romans 2:6; Revelation 2:23; 18:6; 22:12.
- **Simple Outline of the two Judgments:** Believers will be judged and rewarded according to their faithfulness to Christ. Unbelievers will be judged and condemned according to their deeds or actions.

So God judges humans according to their deeds or actions.

A new concept? Hardly! See: Jeremiah 17:10; Isaiah 3:10-11. The Old Testament tells us that God will judge on the basis of the outcome, the product, the works, or the life pattern of an individual.

- New Testament Proofs that God will judge men on the basis of their works: Matthew 16:27; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:12.

Human Standards of Judgment don't accurately portray God's judgment. Examples: Occupational profession, family lineage, family historical contributions to Christianity, identification with a denomination, baptism, confirmation, catechism, first communion, charitable contributions ... and the list goes on forever.

- **The better analysis:** God judges humans on the basis of their actions. Ultimately, the question will not be whether a man is a Jew or whether he's a Gentile. It will be on the basis of his or her actions – whether or not they were in line with God's revealed truth.

God judges humans on the basis of their deeds or actions. Next time we will see how that plays out.