

Study in Romans

Doctrine > Bad News > Eternal Wrath > Parenthetical Note About God's Judgement
Romans 2:12-16

The Nature of God's Judgement

Scripture says in many places that God's judgement will include a judgement of thoughts, words and deeds. God's salvation is by grace through faith, but His judgement is on works:

- I Sam. 2:3 "...by [the LORD] actions are weighed."
- Ps. 62:12 "...to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work."
- Prov. 24:12 (see text box)
- Ecc. 11:9 "But know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment."
- Ecc. 12:13-14 "For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil."
- Is. 3:10-11 "Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds. Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for what his hands have dealt out shall be done to him."
- Jer. 17:9-10 "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."
- Matt. 12:36-37 "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
- John 5:28-29 "... those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."
- Rom. 2:6-11 (our text)
- I Cor. 3:8 "He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor."
- 2 Cor. 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil."
- Gal. 6:7-9 "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

*Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not He Who weighs the heart perceive it? **Will He not repay each person according to what he has done?***

Proverbs 24:11-12 NIV

Rev. 20:11-15 seems to clear up this question. The "books" (cf. Daniel 7:10) are God's records of everyone's works while the Lamb's Book of Life is the record of all who have trusted God's promise of salvation in His Holy One, Jesus. The works which are rooted in faith are those counted by God as good works, but those rooted in the flesh are sin (cf. Is. 64:6; Matt. 7:23). God does not look at the work, but at the heart doing the work!