

## Judged By The Gospel

### Text Verses - Rom. 2:16 --- and --- Col. 1:21-23

We've studied last night, how ....

people are SAVED by Paul's gospel .... in 1 Cor. 15:3-4

--- and this morning, how

.... people are ESTABLISHED by Paul's gospel .... in Rom. 16:25

Now, let's consider how .... people will be JUDGED by Paul's gospel .... in Rom. 2:16 and Col. 1:21-23.

**Rom. 2:14-16**    *14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:*  
*15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)*  
**16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to MY gospel.**

In the context, this verse looks forward to a future judgment of unbelievers at the Great White Throne, showing that 'all men' are without excuse because of a two-fold witness God has given EVERY person ....

Even though God did not give the law to the Gentiles, they are never-the-less still accountable to God --- because they have:

# 1 - a conscience --- that 'inside thinking' conviction of right and wrong

and # 2 - creation --- that 'outside, visible' evidence that there is a God.

The reason God can and will judge men by Paul's gospel is because he announced that Christ's blood was what paid the sin debt, for all men, for all time.

When we realize that we are SAVED by simply believing the gospel Paul preached---

that is

- by grace
- through faith
- believing that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again ...

When we realize that we are ESTABLISHED by 'THAT' gospel ---  
 that is • by the preaching of Jesus Christ  
 according to the revelation of the mystery ....

Then it stands to reason that we would be JUDGED by that SAME standard ---  
 that is BOTH

- lost people who have NOT believed the gospel of GRACE
  - and saved people ---
- what we've done SPECIFICALLY with the message of GRACE ....

In this next passage, we find the principal for us:

Now, let's see HOW we'll be REWARDED if we CONTINUE in Paul's gospel.

**Col. 1:21-23** 21 *And you, that were sometime alienated  
 and enemies in your mind by wicked works,  
 yet **now** hath he reconciled*

22 *In the body of his flesh through death, to present you*

- **holy**
- and **unblameable**
- and **unreproveable** in his sight:

23 **IF** ye **CONTINUE** in the faith ---- grounded and settled,  
 and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel,  
 which ye have heard,  
 and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven;  
**whereof I Paul am made a minister;**

Years ago, I used to STOP reading after verse 22 --- FEARING that great, big  
 (IF) in the very next verse.

I thought we ALL would be holy, unblameable, and unprovable before the  
 Lord, but according to verse 23 --- that is NOT necessarily the case.

Therefore, the question is: What 'QUALIFIES' us to be presented that way?

The simple answer is right there IN the verse:

(IF) we CONTINUE .... in Paul's gospel --- and not be 'moved away' from it.

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Let's examine those 3 ways in which we WANT to be presented:

**HOLY**

is the 1st one:

The word 'holy' in Webster's 1828 dictionary means:  
Pure in heart, temper, or dispositions .... free from sin and sinful affections.

When applied to God, 'holy' signifies 'perfectly pure and complete in moral character' but when applied to man, a man is 'more or less holy' as his heart is conformed in some degree to the image of God, and his life is regulated by divine precepts.

'Holy' also means 'hallowed, consecrated, or set apart'  
to a sacred use, or to the service or worship of God.

Paul BEGS us to offer ourselves holy unto God. WE have the responsibility to present ourselves that way --- and after all, it's only sensible that we do, but it is a 'choice' we need to make:

**Rom. 12:1** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God,  
that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice,  
• holy,  
• acceptable unto God,  
which is your reasonable service.*

God has, in fact, declared us to be HOLY, because WE are now His temple:

**1 Cor. 3:16-17** *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*

----- BUT ----- notice that in the very next verse ----- it IS possible to defile ourselves:

17 **IF** *any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy;  
for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.*

The point here is, that a man's sin CAN cause his body to be destroyed.

Here is another example of that --- when fornication was 'commonly reported' among the Corinthian church, and Paul gave these instructions for dealing with them:

**1 Cor. 5:5** *To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*

The fact is that:

we ARE accepted by God --- in Christ ---

He baptized us into His Son, and we are complete in Him (Col. 2:10).

But the point here is that:

if we want our WORKS to be 'accepted' by God ---

then we have to perform them according to the STANDARD God set.

That is the real issue we are discussing this morning ....

**HOW God will JUDGE our works.**

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We read in Col. 1:22-23 ----- 3 ways in which we want to be presented (holy, unblameable, and unreprouvable).

The 2nd way is:

**unblamable**

These next two verses includes both the first 2 ways.

Paul prayed that the Thessalonians would be 'unblamable in holiness' before God:

**1 Thess. 3:13** *To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.*

God has 'fixed it' where we CAN be both holy and unblamable ---  
we are ABLE to be --- if we CHOOSE to be:

But it depends upon what we do with the 'message of grace' .... the mystery revelation God committed to Paul ....

**Eph 1:3-6** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

*4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world,  
that we **SHOULD be***

- **holy**

- **and WITHOUT BLAME** before him in love:

*5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

*6 To the praise of the glory of his grace,*

*wherein he hath made us*

- **accepted in the beloved.**

I researched the word 'should' in Webster's 1828 dictionary, and found that in 4 definitions, it indicates that someone ought to do a particular thing (as their duty or obligation) based upon some future event or condition,

and in the last definition of the word 'should', it can IMPLY the actual existence of a fact, withOUT any condition.

So, you use it however you want to, but just be aware of BOTH ways.

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We saw the 1st two ways in which we want to be presented (holy and unblameable) in Col. 1:22-23.

Now, let's look at the 3rd way:

**unreprovable**

We already read Rom. 12:1, about presenting our bodies holy unto God. Now, let's pick up the verse after that, to see that we need to 'investigate' or 'prove' what God's acceptable will is.

If we don't know or understand 'what God wants TODAY' then we will be 'working for the WRONG cause .... and end up at the judgment with our efforts going up in smoke, as the fire burns up our works:

**Rom. 12: 2** *And be not conformed to this world:  
but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind,  
that ye may prove what is that*

- **good**
- *and acceptable,*
- *and perfect, will of God.*

It's important for us to 'find out' what God is doing, and do that. Otherwise, we'll be thinking that we're 'working for God' but really, we're doing the wrong thing!

We know what the WILL OF GOD is ---- He plainly tells us:

**1 Tim. 2:4** *Who will have **all men to be saved**, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*

**Eph 3:9** *And to make **all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery**,*

If we were helping someone build a house, but we were framing up walls where they were NOT supposed to be, then in reality, we would be a hinderance, not a help.

We need to spend our time working for GOD's cause ... doing what HE is doing. Otherwise, we will 'suffer loss' at the judgment.

**Gal. 6:4** *But let every man prove his own work,  
and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.*

We need to examine what we do for the Lord, and make sure we're CONstructive, and not DEstructive ---- to God's purpose in the world today.

**1 Cor. 3:9** *For we are labourers together WITH God:  
ye are God's husbandry,  
ye are God's building.*

To use the illustration again ---

If we were 'helping God' build a house, then we certainly would NOT want to frame up the walls where they should not go.

That would be WASTING time, money, and materials.

**It would also be EMBARRASSING,  
and we would be ASHAMED,  
that we had NOT worked according to God's plan,  
and our work would not be ACCEPTABLE to Him.**

If we don't preach the right GOSPEL or if we don't rightly DIVIDE the word of truth, we'll end up being ashamed:

**2 Tim. 2:15** *Study to shew thyself approved unto God,  
a workman that needeth not **to be ASHAMED**,  
rightly dividing the word of truth.*

It's VERY important that we help to build what God wants.

Even though it was for a different time and people (having to do with the KINGDOM), Jesus gave warnings about the same thing .... so people would not be DECEIVED into thinking that they were working for the Lord's cause --- when they were NOT:

**Matt. 7:21-23** *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.  
22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?  
23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you:  
depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*

The passage that teaches us about the judgment we face is 1 Cor. chapter 3, verses 10-15:

**1 Cor. 3:10-15** *According to the grace of God which is given unto me,  
as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation,  
and another buildeth thereon.  
But let every man **take heed how he buildeth thereupon.***

11 *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

It is important to realize the WAY that Paul preached Christ:

Paul makes it very clear that he did NOT preach Jesus as He was during His earthly ministry:

**2 Cor. 5:16** *Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh:  
yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh,  
yet **now henceforth know we him no more.***

Paul also makes it very clear how he DID preach Christ:

**Rom. 16:25** *Now to him that is of power to stablish you  
according to my gospel,  
and the preaching of Jesus Christ,  
**according to the revelation of the mystery,**  
which was kept secret since the world began,*

It is important that we build on the RIGHT foundation.

**1 Cor. 3:12-15** *Now if any man build upon **THIS foundation**  
gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;*

13 *Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it,  
because it shall be revealed by fire;  
and the fire shall try every man's work **of what SORT it is.***

14 *If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon,  
**he shall receive a reward.***

15 *If any man's work shall be burned, he shall **suffer loss:**  
but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

Whoever 'suffers loss' on that day, will surely be disappointed to see all their works burn up in the fire .... like wood, hay, and stubble.

Stubble is consumed the fastest of the 3, and hay burns quicker than wood. They are on different grades, but never-the-less, they ALL are destroyed by fire.

It's enough to make one be ashamed on Judgment Day, isn't it?

On the other hand .... if we DO build on the right foundation ....

**.... if we, like Paul, can say:**

**Rom. 1:16** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:*

*for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;  
to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

**.... if we, like Paul, can say:**

**Eph 6:19** *And for me, that utterance may be given unto me,*

*that I may open my mouth boldly, to **make known the mystery** of the gospel,*

.... THEN we will have labored together with God

by working for the 2 things God wants for ALL men

(to be saved -- 1 Tim. 2:4

and to see the fellowship of the mystery -- Eph. 3:9)

and we can be confident that our works will NOT burn up.

In closing, let's go back to the beginning verses, to refresh the thought:

**Col. 1:22-23** *In the body of his flesh through death,  
to present you **holy and unblameable and unproveable** in his sight:*

**23 If ye continue in the faith** *grounded and settled,  
and be not moved away from **the hope of the gospel**, which ye have  
heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven;  
**whereof I Paul am made a minister;***

**If we, like Paul, can say** this next verse, then we can have confidence:

**2 Tim. 4:7-8** *I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course,*

***I have kept the faith:***

**8** *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness,  
which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day:  
and not to me only, but **unto all them also that love his appearing.***

We are saved by grace,

and it is by grace we can choose to live a holy life and serve the Lord,

while we await the day Christ comes to the clouds to catch us up and away:

**Titus 2:11-14** *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation  
hath appeared to all men,*

**12** *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts,  
we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

**13 Looking for that blessed hope,  
and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;**

**14** *Who gave himself for us,  
that he might redeem us from all iniquity,  
and purify unto himself a peculiar people,  
**zealous of good works.***

May each of us labor for God's cause, so we may be rewarded at the Judgment!

This is David Dowell .... saying, "Think about it!"

