



**Good News for the Believer
But Still Bad News for the One Who Has Rejected God
Romans 2:5-16**

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Romans 2:5–11

“But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of **God, who WILL REPAY EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give eternal life; but to those who are self-serving and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, He will give wrath and indignation.** There will be tribulation and distress



for every soul of mankind who does evil, for the Jew first and also for the Greek, but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who does what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For there is no partiality with God.” (NASB 2020)

I really wanted to get a little further last week because as we left it, it was a downer discussion for those who do not know Jesus. Repent and repent now because otherwise, all you are doing is piling up judgment on top of judgment.

But Paul has good news for those who have not rejected the Lord but are followers of Jesus Christ. Yes, we still sin but we have a savior who loves us and has provided for us the means to reestablish our relationship with Him in 1 John 1:9.

We also get a hint after verse 6, what it will look like for the follower of Jesus versus the one who has rejected God when it is time to be judged at the end of the age.

Let’s talk a little about that.

We discussed the Great White Throne judgment a little last week. If you are in Jesus Christ, it is nothing more than a topic of study for you and me. Those who trust Jesus and follow Him will not go there. But those who do not trust Jesus and have rejected Him, they already have appointments.

John 3:18

“Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” (ESV)

That appointment can still be canceled as long as you are still breathing there is still an opportunity to believe. But once you die, the appointment will not be broken.

Hebrews 9:27

“And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,” (ESV)

Here is the truth for all of us. God will repay each person according to their deeds. There is no exception for that at all. But why is it so different for those of us who know Jesus versus those who do not know Jesus?

We are going to look at the Judgment Seat (Bema) Seat of Christ as well as the Great White Throne Judgment. They are not the same.

First, the believer, the one who has come to Christ and established a relationship with Him through faith.

Romans 2:7

“to those who by **perseverance in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give eternal life;**” (NASB 2020)

What happens to us when we come to Christ? There is no way I can go into a definitive explanation of what salvation is, I am wholly inadequate to even adequately begin to explain God’s saving grace much less fully explain it. But I hope to bring us to an understanding

First of all, there was a point in time where the Holy Spirit was with us and doing His ministry of telling us about Jesus, wooing us to believe in Christ. Many reject this, but for those of us who believe, we did not.



John 15:26–27

“When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, namely, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, **He will testify about Me**, and you are testifying as well, because you have been with Me from the beginning.” (NASB 2020)

He testifies and we listened and believed the testimony.

John 3:5–6

“Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which has been born of the flesh is flesh, and **that which has been born of the Spirit is spirit.**” (NASB 2020)

He is the one who brings us to this transforming encounter with God. We understand that we are sinners, and that Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay our penalty for being a sinner. He is offering to set us free from that penalty forever. All we have to do is repent by acknowledging to Him that we are indeed sinners, literally changing our minds about how we have lived, and asking Him to forgive us of that sin while also believing that what He did on the cross was indeed sufficient and believing that His resurrection from the dead sealed the deal for us.

This transforming encounter with God lies at the foundation of our Christian experience. Despite its centrality to our faith, however, conversion remains a mystery. Exactly how the “great transaction” transpires—how God brings us to know him—is beyond our comprehension. (Grenz 2000, 405)

Stop and think about it for a moment, we never thought that how we lived, prior to meeting Jesus, was bad or wrong. But now, because of Him, we have repented, changed our mind about how we used to live and this is a total a radical change which provides us a new attitude towards our actions. Now we want to live for Him.

We call this conversion. Paul refers to it as a new life.

Romans 6:4

“Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in **newness of life.**” (NASB 2020)

We are no longer following Satan; he was all about ripping us off. Now we have an abundant life.

John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I came so that they would have life, and have it abundantly.**” (NASB 2020)

What the Holy Spirit has done by applying the work of Christ to our life is called regeneration. We are totally new with a new spiritual life.

We have given Christ all that we had, our sin and our old rotten heart and in exchange, He has created in us a new heart. A new spirit. He had to, the old was so badly damaged the only way this would work is if we are made totally new in Christ.

Titus 3:5

“**He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,**” (NASB 2020)



The word which is used by Paul is παλιγγενεσίας (paligenesias) and this is done by the Holy Spirit. "Paligenesis ("regeneration") is derived from the verb gennaō (active: "give birth to"; passive: "be born") and the adverb palin ("again, once more"). Consequently, the term "regeneration" is etymologically related to the idea of rebirth. The theological significance of the word, therefore, arises from the metaphor contained within it. Regeneration refers to our spiritual birth, the transaction that brings us into intimate relationship with God as his children." The Holy Spirit does this for us when we believe. (Grenz 2000, 434)

Because we are now His kids, we are to live as He wants the members of His family to live. And Paul let's us in on that lifestyle in verse 7.

Romans 2:7

"to those who by **perseverance in doing good** seek glory, honor, and immortality, **He will give eternal life;**" (NASB 2020)

But Ken, what about the previous verse that each person will He will repay according to their deeds. Totally true.

What deed did you do? You have believed in the one and only Son of God. Let's take another look at John 3:18.

John 3:18

"**Whoever believes in him is not condemned**, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God." (ESV)

That is incredibly good news for those who have placed their trust in Christ.

John 3:36

"**Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life**; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." (ESV)

No Great White Throne for us, but our deeds "after" we have come to Christ will indeed be examined.

We are indeed saved, but what have we done with it? Again, those instructions Jesus gives us about how He wants His kids to live, to interact with others and that whole obedience thing too.

We have, what has been called by Erwin Lutzer, a yet to come meeting with our King, one on one. The Bema Seat, the Judgment Seat of Christ.

2 Corinthians 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.**" (ESV)

And there it is. A review of our deeds after we trusted in Jesus Christ. The good stuff, and the bad stuff. He does that here while we are on earth and in some serious cases, takes the believer home to Himself as with Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5). He will also do so when we have our one on one with Him. By the way, we are indeed saved.

David confessed and repented of his great sin of murder and adultery with Bathsheba, but he was still judged and still suffered the consequences of his sin in this life. Reaping and sowing are still in effect no matter our faith.



But each of us, because of our faith in Christ, has passed from death to life (1 John 3:14).

Here is the things we must remember, not everyone will do well at the Bema seat. Some of us will realize what rewards we could have received but forfeited forever because of what we did in our self rather than in the power of the Holy Spirit. "It is not true, as some teach, that ten minutes after our personal confrontation with Christ our meeting will have little significance because all of us will essentially receive the same reward. What happens at the judgment seat can have permanent consequences." (Lutzer 2015, 10)

Yes, there are indeed degrees of reward in heaven and spoilers, degrees of punishment in hell (Luke 12:47-48).

Now, we must be clear, this is only for those who belong to Jesus Christ. The way we live now as followers of Jesus has eternal consequences and will indeed impact our eternity.

If you spend time thinking about what the Lord has for us, and that our current actions here on this planet could actually impact that, it tends to do in us exactly what the Lord would want it to do.

When I consider that, it tends to make arguments with others today, seem petty and unnecessary. I understand as well, why we are instructed to pray for those who have offended us (Matthew 5:44, Luke 6:28), they need to repent here in this life and do so right now to avoid it dragging them down in eternity. If they do not know Jesus, it indeed adds to the judgment (Psalms 69:27) they already have scheduled. This event will take place after the rapture of the church but apparently, prior to the beginning of the events we read of in Revelation 4 since there the church already has their crowns (Revelation 4:4).

2 Corinthians 5:6–10

"So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. **So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 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.**" (ESV)

In his first letter to the church in Corinth, Paul had explained, using an analogy of building a house, what our life would look like as we live for Him or for self.

1 Corinthians 3:10–15

"According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. **For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.** If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire." (ESV)

The purpose of the judgment seat of Christ is to properly evaluate us, to grade us so that our position in the coming kingdom is made clear. This life is like a college-entrance exam that helps us know where we shall be slotted in the kingdom of the coming King. To quote Hughes again, this judgment "is not a declaration of gloom, but an assessment of worth, with the assignment of rewards to those who because of their faithfulness deserve them and a loss or withholding of rewards in the case of those who do not deserve them." (Lutzer 2015, 31)



It really gets down to this, as we do life in Christ everyday, who do we live for and serve? Do we understand that there is an audience of one who is deeply interested in how we are doing today, or do we forget Him.

I remember my Track Coach, Neil Steinhauer. He held the world record in the indoor shot. But that did not matter in our relationship, he was there to encourage me and help me become who the Lord wanted me to be. And be a decent athlete at the same time.

I remember one meet where I really felt like I tanked horribly, but he encouraged me and pointed out that I had improved from last week, and was allowing the Lord to humble me.

I wanted to see big steps of improvement, but he was realistic and celebrated the little things while keeping me pointed the right direction. We lifted weights together all the time and of course, he could bench way more than I could at the beginning. But eventually, I was benching the same as he did, but not overnight. Again, encouragement in the little victories along the way.

Jesus does the same for us. He encourages us to persevere. Just like Paul says here in verse 7. Persevere, hang in there in doing good, living His way and not ours, seek His glory and His honor in all we do and keep looking forward to the fact that we really will live with Him forever.

When we stand before Jesus Christ it will not matter if we have had fame, accolades of the crowd, or no one paid us any attention at all. Rewards are not based on the size of ministry, the results of ministry, or any other metrics that we are used to seeing in job evaluations. Length of service is not involved either. Stop and think about the thief on the cross who believed and was dead in hours. Yet, his faithfulness has resulted in thousands coming to know Jesus Christ.

We will be judged on the basis of our loyalty to Christ with the time, talents, and treasures that were at our disposal. In other words, we are judged for the opportunities that were given to us, be they few or many, great or small. All believers have the potential to be generously rewarded. (Lutzer 2015, 33-34)

What is the key word Paul uses here in verse 7, perseverance. For those who persevere and are diligent in what they do for the Lord, no matter how little or large, we see this.

2 Peter 1:10–11

“Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for **if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**” (ESV)

I would much rather be found diligently serving Him in everything, no matter how big or little. That beats the alternative.

1 John 2:28

“And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.” (ESV)

Here is the thing, as followers of Jesus Christ we all have a brother, by adoption who loves us more than we can ever consider. He wants to be with you and me forever and He also wants us to serve the Father alongside Him in the Kingdom and on into eternity. He will indeed be gracious, and we will be rewarded far beyond our imagination or comprehension. But how we live today, provides us the opportunity to add to that reward or in the alternative, to forfeit some of it.



How does that happen? The Lord gives us opportunities each and every day to serve Him in the little things of life. Dianne does little things for me that I always want to thank her for, but sometimes I forget to do so, and when I do so, I miss out on the kiss I could have had.

The longer we are married, the more I am unwilling to give that up. Our walk with Christ should be the same. Are we thanking Him for what He does for us everyday? Do we let things get in the way of our relationship with Him? Will the things we do survive the fire of His review? Unlike those around us, He will also look at the thoughts and intentions behind what we do.

Hebrews 4:12–13

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**” (ESV)

Matthew 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.” (ESV)

And now we know why 1 John 1:9 is so important, we want to be pure and ready for our Lord, prayed up to use an old term.

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (NASB 2020)

To come to Christ, we admit we are sinners and ask Him to forgive and He does. But now that we are His, His Holy Spirit inside of us points out to us those things we do, think or say that are rebellion and disobedience, sin is indeed the word. We confess those to Him, asking Him to forgive us and in His grace, He forgives us and reestablishes our relationship with Him. And because we have been forgiven, then what He has forgiven us of is not part of what we see in Luke.

Luke 12:2–3

“But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.” (NASB 2020)

Obviously, not everything said in our bedrooms will be shouted from the housetops. Christ is speaking of those sins we have covered and refused to bring to Him in confession and repentance. (Lutzer 2015, 57)

We have been talking about those who love the Lord, know the Lord and will spend eternity with Him. That is where Paul begins in his contrast regarding those who sit back and judge others and condemn others while also participating in the same activities. As followers of Jesus, the Holy Spirit will indeed provide very real coarse corrections for us.

But what about those who do not know Jesus.

Romans 2:8–9

“but to those who are self-serving and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, **He will give wrath and indignation. There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of mankind who does evil,** for the Jew first and also for the Greek,” (NASB 2020)



We are now talking about those who are piling judgment onto themselves or as Paul put it, storing up wrath for yourself. This is not a reward issue anymore, this is someone who never had a relationship with Jesus Christ at all. It is a wrath issue

Welcome to the Great White Throne judgment.

Just as all followers of Jesus Christ will have a "job evaluation" one on one with their Lord and Savior, those who do not follow Jesus but have rejected Him, also will have a one on one.

For the Christian, we will either have been with the Lord and now recently resurrected or raptured as we go through this, but for everyone else, they have spent over a thousand years or more in a place called Sheol in misery (Luke 16:23-24). First of all, when death comes, the Christian goes directly to be with Jesus. The person who does not know Jesus, goes directly to Sheol. There is no such thing as purgatory. All the person without Jesus has to look forward after death is judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

Everyone who has died without Jesus Christ already has an appointment to meet with Jesus Christ at the Great White Throne.

Revelation 20:11–15

"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled, and no place was found for them. And **I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.** And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them; and they were judged, each one of them according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." (NASB 2020)

Billions of people, all those who have died without Christ, standing and waiting to be judged. No appeals, everything is in the books. There will be no acquittal in this courtroom. The task is to be judging those who have rejected God by suppressing the truth in unrighteousness. All will be judged and sentenced to eternity in hell.

There will be no postponement. No further delay. It is now too late to throw yourself on the mercy of the court. Because they rejected the Lord based on the light they had at the time, they have died in their sins. Jesus stated that the one who does not believe has been judged already. God provided for the out, He provided for mercy through Christ, but it was each person's individual choice.

There will be good people there, even religious people as well as bad people. But they all had the same problem, they never bothered to believe. The book of life does not have their name in it. They will indeed be judged by their deeds, but they never trusted Christ, so judgment it is.

There will be millions who believe they have been good enough. But God does not grade on the curve. Some will indeed suffer more than others.

Matthew 10:15

"Truly I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment, than for that city." (NASB 2020)

In other words, their deeds during life and will provide the data needed by Jesus Christ to tailor the individual punishment that each person will suffer, and it is indeed for all eternity.



There is no mercy in hell. There are no cooler spots in an unquenchable fire. There are no higher spots in a bottomless pit. There are no lighter areas in outer darkness. It is far wiser to use subjective terms to describe variations in punishment rather than objective terms like 'degrees'. It means those unbelievers who refused greater light will be tormented more by their own conscience than those who never had that light. The 'if only' pangs of guilt will be more intense for Bethsaida than Sidon. Though hell is undiminished anguish (objectively speaking) it is worse for some (subjectively speaking) because of their greater wasted opportunities for escape. (Bloomfield 2009, 193-194)

If you have ever heard the term the second resurrection, that is the resurrection that will take place so all of mankind who is lost, can stand before their creator and be judged. The first resurrection was completed 1,000 years earlier beginning with Jesus Christ and first sheaf, then the Church, followed by the Old Testament saints and the Tribulation saints and then the first resurrection is done. Those of us who were raptured, never died, but we went up to meet those in the air who went before us.

The second resurrection begins with the Beast and the False Prophet. They are joined in hell by many who survived the Tribulation but did not enter the Kingdom and were judged at the sheep and goats judgment. At the end of the Millennium, all the dead bodies of all unbelievers will be resurrected in order to be judged. And once judgment is complete, the second resurrection then gives way to the second death in the Lake of Fire. This will be where the lost will remain, for all eternity. They will be joined there by Satan, all of the fallen angels as well as all of the demons.

Hell, the final destination of those who have rejected Christ, is a place of eternal torment (Revelation 20:10).

Those who are there are fully conscious and aware of their plight (Revelation 19:20) as the Beast and False Prophet are placed there very much alive, and 1,000 years later are joined by Satan (Revelation 20:10).

How long will hell last? The same Greek word to describe how long heaven lasts (2 Peter 1:11), is used to describe how long hell will last, aionion (Matthew 25:41). Everlasting.

And based on what Jesus tells us about the rich man, fully conscious and aware of what is taking place.

2 Thessalonians 1:9

"These people will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power," (NASB 2020)

Paul is very clear here in Romans 2 about what both groups have to look forward to. For those who are believers, we have a glorious future. An eternity with Jesus Christ and with the Father living in the Kingdom and then in the New Jerusalem.

For those who have rejected God, and as a result have no excuse now, they too have a future unless they repent and come to Christ. It is a future of judgment and eternal punishment.

For the follower of Jesus, we have this to look forward to.

Romans 2:10–11

"but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who does what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **For there is no partiality with God.**" (NASB 2020)

As we live with the Lord, we experience His glory, His honor and His peace and we will do so forever. This is an answer to what Jesus prayed for His disciples and for us prior to going to the cross.



John 17:24

“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.” (NASB 2020)

Paul is deliberate here when he references the Jews and the Gentiles. There were some in the Temple who would teach God would judge the Jews one way and the Gentiles another. What Paul points out is simple, the religious person, Jewish in this case, and the non-religious person, Gentile in this case, will be treated the same. It is based on faith. There is no partiality with God.

Sorry, but you can't possibly be God's favorite, since we all are.

Romans 2:12–13

“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; for it is not the hearers of the Law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the Law who will be justified.” (NASB 2020)

Continuing with the impartiality of God, Paul contrasts between Jew and Gentile here and they are both in the same place. Paul is camping a bit on the last day of judgment which he has been discussing since verse 5. We have already discussed the difference between a believer and an unbeliever and so has Paul. Now he is dealing with the so-called dichotomy that his own people would assert. Two standards of judgment.

Both sides of the argument begin the same way in the Greek, “all who sinned.” All who sinned without the law will perish. IT will be because of their sin, not because they did not know the law. God will not hold them to a standard they do not know, but based on what they do know, they still are sinners and still perish.

Then he turns to the Jews who thought because of the law, they were good. But based on what Paul says here, not so much. He starts the argument the same way, “all who sinned.” All who sinned with full knowledge of the law, will be held to the standard they thought they knew and failed to follow and they too will also perish as sinners.

Possession of and knowledge of the law does not provide for salvation and never really has. David knew that.

Psalms 51:16–17

“For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” (ESV)

Even Abraham knew this was all based on faith and not position or works.

Genesis 15:5–6

“And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.” (ESV)

God will judge all by what they know, He is just and impartial. “The way people have sinned (in knowledge or ignorance of the law) will be the way they will be judged. ‘The ground of judgment is their works; the rule of judgment is their knowledge,’ and whether they have lived up to their knowledge.” (Stott 2001, 86)



Paul continues on pointing out to those who believe they will not be judged because they are Jewish and have knowledge of the law. The same ones who were watching others and thankful they were not sinners like them, but actually were. These are not saved people because if they were, their life would look different. So continuing from the view of judgment, Paul adds this.

Romans 2:13

“for it is not the hearers of the Law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the Law who will be justified.” (NASB 2020)

Possession of the law doesn't save, obedience to it does. Of course, no one can actually do that, which is why Jesus Christ had to come and fulfill the law for us. Just hearing the law does not save, obedience does. Paul is tearing away the things his people would lean on for support that they are saved. If they are relying on being Jewish, in other words relying solely on the covenant without a changed life, nope. He also makes it clear, as a former professional law keeper, that doesn't work either.

Romans 2:14–16

“For when Gentiles who do not have the Law instinctively perform the requirements of the Law, these, though not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience testifying and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of mankind through Christ Jesus.” (NASB 2020)

Anticipating the next argument point, Paul moves to it himself and once again talks about those who do not have the law, the Gentiles.

Contrary to popular opinion in Jewish circles of the time, Gentiles also have morality and a conscience. They have a perception of what is right and what is wrong and do not have anything in writing telling them that. It is something intuitive that we all have, an innate internal sense of right and wrong which may be right or wrong all on its own.

The Gentile does not have the law revealed in the Old Testament, but his conduct shows that he knows right from wrong. God is at work in him. He knows enough of “law” to be guilty when he sins, even though he may not know the God who prescribes right conduct, or even that there is a God who prescribes it. (Morris 1988, 125)

Because of this innate sense of right and wrong that is seen in Gentile conduct, when it is seen, it reflects the conscience of the unsaved individual at work.

If your conscience bothers you about something you want to do, then do not do it. But what if our conscience is inordinately impacted by the culture and what you think is wrong is actually, based on God's perspective, right.

There are some who use this scripture as a pointer towards using their conscience to determine how to live. But for us as followers of Jesus Christ, we know that our true north is the word of God. We know how bent our hearts truly are. We can sear our conscience so that it is ineffective.

1 Timothy 4:1–3

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, **through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared**, who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.” (ESV)



Still speaking about judgment, Paul concludes when God judges, He will include the hidden areas of the life of those being judged and as such will have even their secrets subjected to the light of God. God knows what is behind the decisions we make.

At the Bema seat, it isn't our conscience so much as our heart, and why we do what we do for the Lord. For the person who is not saved, whether Jew or Gentile, judgment not only includes the component of knowledge or lack thereof of the law, but also the conscience and motivations as well.

Jesus Christ is the one that God has assigned to be the judge, and it really is a part of the gospel. When we hear the good news of what Jesus Christ achieved for us on the cross and reflect that if we reject this great salvation, all we have to look forward to is Jesus as judge, we make the wise decision of making Him savior instead and spend a lifetime in service to Him.

Acceptance of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Good News, does indeed save us from the judgement of the Great White Throne and instead moves us to the realm of reward, and eternity with Jesus. If you have not yet made that decision to make Jesus Christ your savior, now is the time.

Romans 3:21–24

"But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins." (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."" (NLT)

ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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