

# Justification – Judgement and Reward

## Judgement

There is a future day of judgement when all secrets will be laid bare (e.g. Romans 2:16; Hebrews 4:13)

... that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (Romans 2:16)

No creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:13)

The judgement will be on the basis of what people have done (e.g. Romans 2:6-11; Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:28-29)

He will render to each one according to his works:

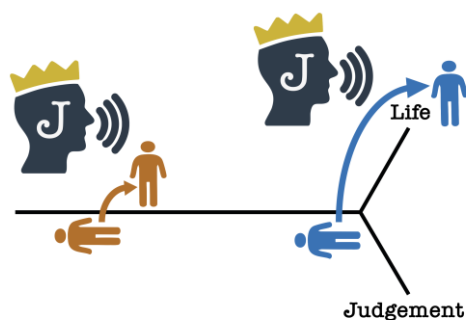
to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, he will give eternal life;  
but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness,  
there will be wrath and fury.

There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek,  
but glory and honour and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

For God shows no partiality. (Romans 2:6–11)

And on the basis of the amount of light received (e.g. Matthew 11:22)

But the verdict of that day is brought forward through the gospel, so you can know the outcome *today* (John 5:24; Romans 5:6-10; 8:1-3)



“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me **has eternal life**. He does not come into judgement, but **has passed from death to life**.... Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgement. (John 5:24–29)

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. (Romans 5:6–10)

	Who we were	+	Who we are now	Predicted outcome on judgement day
Romans 5:8-9				
Romans 5:10				

Q. How can judgement be on the basis of works, if the outcome is already clear from our justification, which is entirely based on faith *apart from* works (e.g. Romans 3:28; Ephesians 2:8-9)?

A. Works are *evidential* not instrumental or meritorious. And while works don't *change* our salvation they can increase our *assurance* of salvation (e.g. 2 Peter 1:10-11; 1 John 2:3-6).

## Christians are rewarded for good they have done for the Master

Will Christians be judged? **DISTINGUO** We will escape the “judgement” of condemnation (e.g. John 5:24) but we will still face the “judgement” by which our lives and work are evaluated. (1 Corinthians 3:12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

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. (1 Corinthians 3:12–15)

So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (2 Corinthians 5:9–10)

No good we do in secret goes unnoticed (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18)

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And **your Father who sees in secret will reward you**. And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. **And your Father who sees in secret will reward you....** And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. **And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.** (Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18)

No sacrifice we make is uncompensated (Mark 10:28-30)

Peter began to say to him, “See, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.” (Mark 10:28–30)

Faithfulness in this life will determine the degree of responsibility we are given in the new creation

“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ (Matthew 25:21; cf. v23)

But none of this reward is because we “earned it” by ourselves. We are able to be fruitful only as we “abide” in Jesus (John 15). We can offer the parts of our body to serve God only because Christ has set us free (Romans 6). We are fit to serve only because we have been cleansed by his sacrifice (Hebrews 9). There can be no boasting. And, presumably, neither will there be envy. *Soli Deo Gloria*