

The Epistle of Paul to the **ROMANS**

"The Constitution of the Christian Faith"

Chapter Two : The Heavenly Court is in Session The Indictment Continues: Three Types of the Accused

"For there is no respect of persons with God" 2:11

I. The Self Righteous Moralists: (2:1-11)

- v1 A. This individual bases acceptance with God on his moral behavior.
1. What is the standard by which they measure their goodness?
 2. How do they measure the goodness of others?
 3. As a result, how do they relate to others? 2 Sam 12:1-12 (David & Bathsheba)
 4. Why is this person judged by God?

- v2 B. This individual has no understanding of the righteous judgment of God.
1. What standard does God use to measure goodness? John 14:6; 17:17
 2. How does this affect the judgment of God? Psalms 119:75,89,137,142; Psalms 19:7,8

Psalm 119:75 I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

Psalm 119:89 For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.

Psalm 119:137 Righteous art thou, O Lord, and upright are thy judgments.

Psalm 119:142 Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.

Psalm 19:7-8 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

3. This individual is deceived, thinking he will escape the judgment of God by his self imposed standard of righteousness. Luke 18:9-14 (Pharisee & Publican)

- v3 C. This individual despises (makes little of) the love of God.
- * The riches (abundance) of His:
 1. Goodness - Moral excellence, kindness.
 2. Forbearance - Self restraint, tolerance.
 3. Long-suffering - Patience.

- v4 D. This individual is accumulating a treasure chest of God's wrath.
1. There is a day coming when the righteous judgment of God will be revealed. Revelation 20:11-15
 2. God will dispense judgment according to each person's deeds.

a. Eternal life to those who seek (according to the evidence of diligent obedience to God) glory, honor, and immortality. Hebrews 11:6; Deut 4:29

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Deut. 4:29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

- b. Indignation & wrath to those who are self-seeking, and rebellious against the truth, and obedient to unrighteousness.

II. The Ignorant Pagan: (2:12-16)

- A. This individual can not use the excuse of ignorance to escape God's judgment.
 - 1. The natural law of moral behavior is written on their hearts.
 - 2. A person's understanding of right & wrong can be known without the formal law because of the law of the "Golden Rule". Matt 7:12
 - 3. People use this natural law to accuse or excuse. (Relativism)
- B. The transgression of natural law is cause for judgment by God.
 - James 4:17
 - James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

III. The Religious Person: (2:17-29)

- A. This individual relies on their religious actions to escape the wrath of God.
 - Matthew 7:21-23; 15:7-9; 23:13-33; 2 Peter 2:21
 - 2 Peter 2:21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.
 - 1. They rested in the law. (the letter, not the spirit) 2 Cor 3:6.
 - 2 Cor. 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.
 - 2. They boasted in God. Isaiah 48:1,2 ; Deut 4:7,8
 - Isaiah 48:1-2 Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the Lord, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness. For they call themselves of the holy city, and stay themselves upon the God of Israel; The Lord of hosts is his name.
 - Deut. 4:7-8 For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?
 - 3. They were instructed (indoctrinated) from the scriptures. Deut 6:7-9
 - a. They were taught the will of God.
 - b. They were taught the righteousness of God.
 - 4. They considered themselves to be teachers of the law to others.

- B This individual blasphemes the name of God in full view of unbelievers.

Isaiah 52:5; Ezekiel 36:16-22; 1 Tim 1:20,6:1; Titus 2:5; James 2:6-9

Isaiah 52:5 Now therefore, what have I here, saith the Lord, that my people is taken away for nought? they that rule over them make them to howl, saith the Lord; and my name continually every day is blasphemed.

Ezekiel 36:16-22 Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, when the house of Israel dwelt in their own land, they defiled it by their own way and by their doings: their way was before me as the uncleanness of a removed woman. Wherefore I poured my fury upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for their idols wherewith they had polluted it: And I scattered them among the heathen, and they were dispersed through the countries: according to their way and according to their doings I judged them. And when they entered unto the heathen, whither they went, they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These are the people of the Lord, and are gone forth out of his land. But I had pity for mine holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the heathen, whither they went.

Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went.

- C. There is no advantage to this individual because of religious ritual.

- 1. Circumcision - The physical mark of the Abrahamic covenant to the Jew.
- 2. Only the one who has the "mark" on their heart (circumcision of the Spirit) has acceptance with God. Romans 8:14; 2 Cor 1:22; 5:5; Eph 1:13,14.