

Musing #45 — Romans 2:6-29

We begin today with a continuation of the seven principles by which God will judge unbelievers. In Musing #44 we covered #1 — Truth, and #2 — Accumulation of Guilt. Paul now gets to #3 — Works, “faith without works is dead”

- **Judgement #3 - Works.**

Romans 2:6 He will judge everyone according to what they have done.

This will take place for those who have rejected Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. the judgement occurs at The White Throne Judgement.

John wrote in... **Revelation 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**

Paul quotes from the Old Testament... and Matthew in his writing...

Psalm 62:16 Surely you repay all people according to what they have done.

Prov 24:12 Don't excuse yourself by saying, "Look, we didn't know." For God understands all hearts, and he sees you. He who guards your soul knows you knew. He will repay all people as their actions deserve.

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds.

Deeds — Not to earn salvation. But to serve God, by trustworthiness, discipline, — works that advance God’s kingdom, not man’s success, achievement, obedience, and marginal morality.

- *If I were given a one-time-only opportunity to preach one message to a group of Christians, it would be “How to Be a Christian without Becoming Religious.” Determined Christians climb onto the demands of their leaders, running, striving, hoping, pleading, and praying that they might please God, or win His favor. That’s religion. All pain, no gain. God’s grace provides salvation we cannot earn, favor we do not deserve, and kindness we cannot repay. — Chuck Swindoll*

- *When people believe in something greater than themselves, they generally behave better. — Billy Graham*

We must remember that many of the accusations toward the Jews were coming from the writings of a Jew — the apostle Paul.

7 He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. 8 But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness. 9 There will be trouble and calamity for everyone who keeps on doing what is evil—for the Jew first and also for the Gentiles.

10 But there will be glory and honor and peace from God for all who do good—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. 11 For God does not show favoritism. 12 When the Gentiles sin, they will be destroyed, even though they never had God's written law. And the Jews, who do have God's law, will be judged by that law when they fail to obey it. 13 For merely listening to the law doesn't make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in his sight.

Unbelievers will be judged by their heart and motives. They will be convicted by their own conscience.

For believers... Christ fulfilled the law and we are IN Him/ he is IN us. we are saved by His life...

- **Judgement #4 - No respecter of persons**

Faith without works... is dead. Our works show God where our faith and motivations are focused—on this our present world—or on His eternal world. We can't work our way to heaven, but our motives, our eternal focus, our faith in Jesus Christ are a direct manifestation of those who are saved and secure.

Well.....So far Paul has included:

- a...Those who are wicked and defy God.
- b...The self-righteous who are deluded.
- c...The pagans who have faith only in themselves.
- d...Those devoted to religion with rituals, traditions, and faulty understanding.

- **Judgement #5 - Not knowledge, but performance**

My sheep hear my voice and “follow” — Doers of the word are those who “do what is right... out of a grateful obedience toward their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

James 1:22 But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

Faith is acting with confidence on what God has assured us.

14 Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it.

i.e. Paul was saying, "actions speak louder than words."

15 They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.

Where do our thoughts come from?

God — the devil — memory — circumstances — belief systems.

Faulty beliefs, arouse wrong thoughts, which trigger negative emotions that lead to destructive behavior.

- **Judgement #6 - Secrets of the Heart / Motives**

16 And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.

Psalm 44:21 He knows the secrets of every heart

Again, we all have an inner feeling or voice that serves as a guide to the rightness or wrongness of our choices and behavior. We all experience that inner voice as the direct conviction of our conscience, or a more direct “check in our spirit.”

- **Judgement #7 - Reality...not religious profession — (vs. 17-29)**

17 You who call yourselves Jews are relying on God's law, and you boast about your special relationship with him. 18 You know what he wants; you know what is right because you have been taught his law. 19 You are convinced that you are a guide for the blind and a light for people who are lost in darkness. 20 You think you can instruct the ignorant and teach children the ways of God. For you are certain that God's law gives you complete knowledge and truth.

In order to properly present the gospel and salvation, we like Paul must first help an unbeliever to see that they are lost, guilty of sin, in need of God's cleansing power.

Lost Jews were, and are, as guilty as lost Gentiles. The Jews had access and accountability to the truth... just like church members today. They know God's will... but fail to obey it.

When the unbeliever looks at all 7 principles of judgement... he is without excuse.

Religious church members are the hardest to reach.

No one is too bad for Christ to save

But many feel they are too good—to need saving

Beware of “religion”—man made rules & traditions.

1. Religion that emphasizes the physical over the spiritual

Doing good to be seen as good

2. The focus on secondary matters

Symbols, traditions, rituals—rather than obedience and Christ's mission

3. Religion promotes self-interests above everything

Self-centered—pride, power, recognition

21 Well then, if you teach others, why don't you teach yourself? You tell others not to steal, but do you steal? 22 You say it is wrong to commit adultery, but do you commit adultery? You condemn idolatry, but do you use items stolen from pagan temples? 23 You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it. 24 No wonder the Scriptures say, “The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of you.”

Pride—There are preachers & evangelists who are lost
They base salvation on bible-knowledge and selfish works
The letter kills....the Spirit brings life.
The devil today...loves to ruin a testimony w/legalism
But Paul reminds them....

25 The Jewish ceremony of circumcision has value only if you obey God's law. But if you don't obey God's law, you are no better off than an uncircumcised Gentile. 26 And if the Gentiles obey God's law, won't God declare them to be his own people? 27 In fact, uncircumcised Gentiles who keep God's law will condemn you Jews who are circumcised and possess God's law but don't obey it. 28 For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision.

So....circumcised OR uncircumcised... if you keep **all of the law...**

you think you're OK—But... who can keep all of the law? No one!

Circumcision (physical or spiritual) is not salvation....

Some denominations today believe that baptism is salvation

Many believe that belonging to a church or denomination is the door to heaven

Only having God's LIFE as our source is eternal life possible. We are set-apart.

Philippians 3:3 For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised (of the heart). We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort.

Matthew 15:8-9 Frauds! Isaiah's prophecy of you hit the bull's-eye: These people make a big show of saying the right thing, but their heart isn't in it. They act like they're worshiping me, but they don't mean it. They just use me as a cover for teaching whatever suits their fancy."

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel [re:Saul], "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

Saul's qualities—were all external

David's qualities—were all internal

There are two **types** found **throughout** the Bible—the flesh precedes the spirit

Soul comes before Spirit

External before Internal

Natural before the Spiritual

Cain before Abel

Ishmael before Isaac

Esau before Jacob

Saul before David

Sarai before Sarah
Abram before Abraham
Jacob before Israel
Saul before Paul

God seems to let the flesh run its course from selfish externals to faithful internals.

29 He is a Jew who is one inwardly, and real circumcision is a matter of the heart, spiritual and not literal. His praise is not from men but from God.

