

The Evidence of Works in the Judgment of God

A Study of the Book of Romans

Pastor Tim Allen

Key Truth: Our works neither save us nor condemn us – God does that – but act as evidence either for our salvation or our condemnation.

When we consider Scripture verses like Titus 3:5: “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, he saved us...” and Ephesians 2:8, which tells us that this salvation by grace through faith is: “...not a result of works, so that no one may boast,” we may be tempted to think that our works don’t matter or are antithetical to the Christian Life. That’s not true. Our works – the things that we do – are very important, at least to God. Our works do not save us; but they do act as evidence, either for us or against us.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 2:6-11** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “**The Evidence of Works in the Judgment of God.**”

DIG IN

1. Evidence-Based Judgment (Romans 2:6-8)

When Paul says that God will render to each one according to his works (v. 6), does he mean that we are saved by our works? Why or why not?

In what ways are unbelievers judged by their works (see Revelation 20:12)? In what ways are believers judged by their works (see 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 3:12-15)?

In what ways do “glory, honor, and immortality” (v. 7) refer to heavenly things? In what ways does seeking these things speak of a person’s salvation (see Galatians 6:9)?

In what ways does disobeying the truth (v. 8) speak of a person’s condemnation? Is this something that can mark a believer? Why or why not?

2. Impartial Judgment (Romans 2:9-11)

In what ways do we typically classify people? What are the two “classes” in which God puts people? Is it Jew/Gentile? Why or why not?

The word “distress” (v. 9) means to “squeeze into a narrow place.” In what ways will those who do evil be squeezed into a narrow place? Why is this ironic?

The moral standard by which God will judge the works of people is good/evil. Who judges which works are good and which are evil? Why?

In what ways do our good works act as evidence that we are saved (see John 3:19-21)?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?