

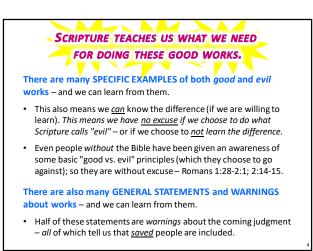


Our focus today is on our <u>obligation</u> to do good works. ★ It will have an impact on our future judgment. ★

- We have already seen that it's not an issue of "faith vs. works." We are saved by God's grace, by means of our faith, and it results in works.
- Since salvation involves God *changing* our hearts and minds, genuine faith will <u>not</u> be devoid of works.

So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead. James 2:17, 26 (ESV)

> ... the obedience that is associated with faith. Romans 1:5b and 16:26b (GW)

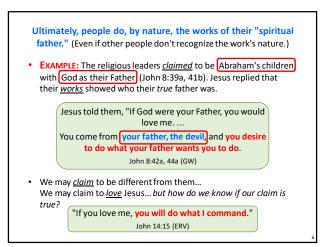


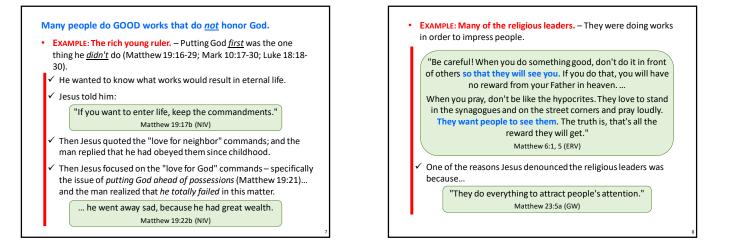
SAVED PEOPLE with a JUDGMENT BASED ON WORKS?

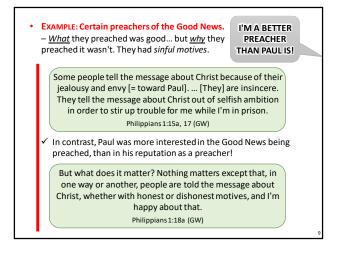
At the final judgment, we will be judged by the "book of life" and by the "books of deeds" (Revelation 20:11-15). *These books will <u>agree</u>, as* two "witnesses" (for or against us), and will determine our eternal destiny. (Compare to the "two or three witnesses" requirement in Deuteronomy 19:15.)

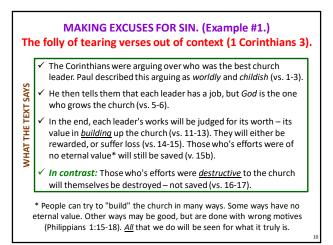
A good work is not truly "good," unless it honors God.

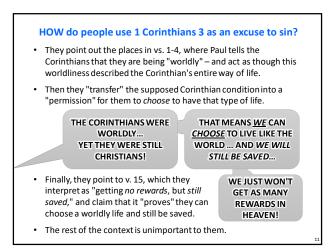
- Unsaved people <u>cannot</u> do this, because they are empowered by their sinful nature.
- Saved people <u>can</u> do this, because God has changed their hearts, minds and values – using the Bible to accomplish it.
- The works of saved people aren't always completely "good," from God's perspective, because of the residual influences of our sinful natures. But this perfection is our *goal*. When Jesus returns, that goal will be 100% attained.

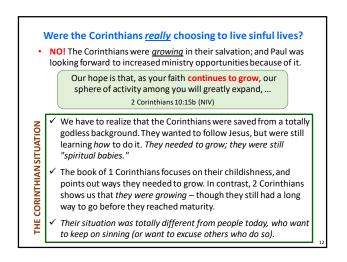


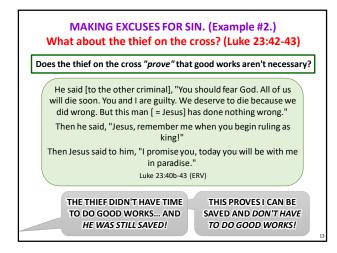


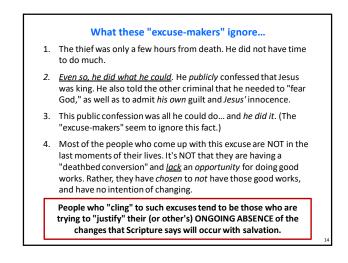


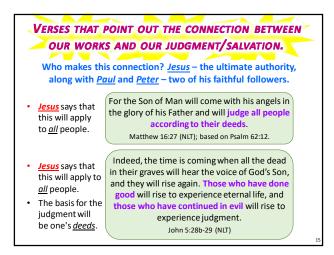


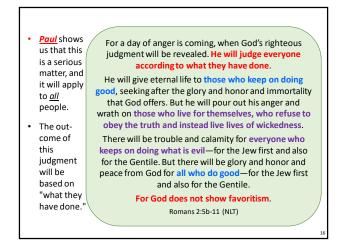












In the next two passages, <u>Paul</u> focuses on the fact that saved people will be judged for their works. His emphasis: "This fact is to influence how we live."

- PASSAGE #1: This passage is directed toward people who are "judging" each other, based on their own personal preferences.
- These are matters that can be right <u>or</u> wrong, based on one's background and/or circumstances in life. God, not us, is the judge in such matters! [These are <u>not</u> moral issues, such as, "do not kill."]

You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written:

> " 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me;

every tongue will acknowledge God.' "

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. Romans 14:10–12 (NIV); guoting Isaiah 45:23.

- PASSAGE #2: Judgment and justice is a necessary future event. This should influence how we live!
 As followers of Jesus, it is fitting to have as our goal a desire to please the Lord, whether we are dead (= in the Lord's presence) or alive (= still in our present bodies).
 So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please [the Lord].
 For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.
 2 corinthians 59-10 (NLT)
- This awareness of the coming judgment should effect our attitude toward those who are *not* ready for it. This includes persuading people (v. 11) and urging them to be reconciled to God (v. 20). Those who are reconciled receive God's righteousness (v. 21).
- Also, Christ's love (v. 14) <u>compels</u> those who receive it to stop living for themselves, and to start living for Christ!

 <u>Peter</u> also reminds us that the coming judgment of our works should influence the way we live <u>now</u>. Note its connection to the need for holiness and obedience <u>now</u>.

> As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. 1 Peter 1:14-17 (NIV)

1 Peter 1:14-17 (N

- These things are also connected to: purifying oneself by obeying the truth (v. 22); being born again through the message of God's Word (v. 23); and the need to grow up in one's salvation (2:1-3).
- Jesus gives the following warning to the church at Thyatira, that he will be judging them according to their works.
 Then all the churches will know that I am the one who examines minds and hearts, and I will give to each of you according to your works.
 Revelation 2:23b (CSB)

 We must remember that physical "churches" contain both saved people and fakes. In the previous verse (= the context), Jesus warns them that he will punish the fakes, if they don't repent.
 At the same time, this fact is given as a warning to *all people* in *all* the churches. It applies to *each* of us, whether we are saved or fake. We need to pay attention to what the Spirit says!

 "Let anyone who has ears to hear listen to what the Spirit says to the churches."

 Revelation 2:29 (CSB)

Finally, we have the account of the *final* judgment. <u>All will be there</u>.
 Then I saw a great white throne and one seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them.
 I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books. Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works.
 Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:11-15 (CSB)
 As mentioned previously, there is also the book of life.

The fate of those <u>not</u> thrown into the lake of fire is described in chapters 21 and 22.





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