

# THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## "Judgment Coming"

Romans 2:13, 16

July 15, 1984

### INTRODUCTION

1. This chapter records God's principles of judgment. They are: a. Truth (v. 2). b. Accumulated wrath (vv. 4, 5). c. Deeds and life-choice. d. Impartiality. e. Gospel.

2. To get to this fifth principle, it is imperative to acknowledge the parenthesis (vv. 15, 16) which logically must be studied with vv. 11, 12.

3. The critical message of this chapter is not how to be justified, but how God will judge humanity. It is patent that hearing or possessing God's Word (law) is not sufficient to stand in God's judgment (v. 13). There must be the doing to demonstrate reality. Only such who produce are declared righteous.

NOTE: Without removing assurance of eternal security, let it be affirmed that there are three ways to know one is saved: a. The declaration of God's Word. This is God's contract (Heb. 6:17, 18). b. The witness of the Holy Spirit. His voice applies God's Word to the heart (1 John 5:20). c. The work of God in our conduct. To be fundamental in doctrine and unregenerate in one's living is contradictory to God's Word. Practical experimental holiness is a necessity to Bible salvation (cf. Enoch, David, Job--all walked what they believed). Read and digest Luke 1:16; 2 Pet. 1:10!

4. Now, with the above in mind, study God's coming judgment.

1. WHAT? -- "Secrets of Men."

"Secrets" refers to us, but not to God. Psychiatrists seek to find the hidden things which cause fears and complexes which affect the whole life. They take weeks and months to uncover these matters.

God knows the secrets of the heart. Nothing is hidden to Him (Ps. 44:20,21; Dan. 2:38, 47). Modern inventions have revealed hitherto unknown aspects of life (e.g. radar, x-rays, ESWL, etc.). What finite man can do, the infinite God is far more able to penetrate and that immediately (Ps. 139:1-6, 13-16; Mt. 10:26; Lk 8:17, 12:2).

2. WHO?--"Jesus Christ."

During our Lord's earthly sojourn, He announced His future role as Judge (Jn. 5:21-23). Scripture teaches that this judgment is certain in that the Judge has been

raised from the dead (Acts 17:31). Perhaps one reason this assignment belongs to the Son is that He died for mankind. Only a true faith in Him will allow for eternal bliss. Make certain you truly know Him (Jn 2:24, 25; 2 Cor. 13:5).

It is "God" who judges by Christ Jesus. This is no diminuation of His person, but a statement of the relationship within the divine economy. Trinitarianism is a biblical doctrine which assigns certain functions to different members of the Godhead.

### 3. WHEN?--"In the Day."

This day is fixed in God's eternal plan. It is not a 24 hour day, for there are several judgment scenes in Scripture. This one obviously deals with the judgment of unbelievers. The certainty of this judgment is recorded (Acts 17:30, 31). While we do not know the day nor the hour, we do know it will follow the millennial reign of Christ on earth. It is called the "Great White Throne" judgment (Rev. 19:11-15). This is a final, eternal commitment to conscious punishment. It is the essence of Hab. 2:20 when an outraged God deals with a sinful world (cf. Ps. 11:4).

### 4. HOW?--"My Gospel"

Obviously, it is God's truth of salvation which is meant, but it is so identified with Paul that it is called His. This is the Gospel clearly indicated in Scripture (1 Cor. 15:1-4; Gal. 1:7-9, 11, 16). There is no other good news. May it be published everywhere for men to believe.

### CONCLUSION

Knowing the truth of coming judgment, there is but one response: settle with the Judge out of court. Do it now and be spared from judgment (Ro. 5:1; 8:1).