

# Sin and Condemnation: The World's need to get right with God

(57)

Pastor Eddie Ildefonso

[Romans 1:18-3:20](#)

(Continuation from 02/19/17)

## C. God's Case Against the Moralist: Judgment, [Romans 2:1-16](#)

**[\(Romans 2:1-16\) Introduction:](#)** this is one of the passages that covers several subjects and can be studied from the viewpoint of any one of them. It is an excellent study on **judging, criticizing others, the judgment of God, self-righteousness, the moralist, and the legalist.**

It also deals with the judgment of the heathen, and answers the question so often asked: "What will happen to the heathen, to the person who never hears about Jesus Christ?" **[\(Romans 2:11-15\).](#)**

The present study is entitled: "God's Case Against the Moralist."

1. **The moralist (v.1).**
2. **The judgment of God is according to truth: perfect justice (v.2-5).**
3. **The judgment of God is according to deeds: eternal reward or punishment (v.6-10).**
4. **The judgment of God is without respect of persons: absolute impartiality (v.11-15).**
5. **The judgment of God is to be executed by Jesus Christ and His gospel (v.16).**

## 5. **[\(Romans 2:16\) Judgment: the judgment of God—of the only living and true God—is to be executed by Jesus Christ and His gospel.](#)**

**Romans 2:16 (NASB)**

**<sup>16</sup>“On the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.”**

Another principle of God's judgment is that of motive. Here Paul makes clear that he is speaking about the *final* judgment, **the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge.** Motive is a valid basis for judgment only because God is able to judge the secrets of men through Jesus Christ. Because the Lord infallibly knows every person's motives for doing the things he does, He can infallibly judge whether or not those deeds are truly good or bad, whether they come from the flesh or from the Spirit.

David counseled his son Solomon to serve God **“with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts”** (**[1 Chronicles 28:9](#)**).

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**1 Chronicles 28:9 (NASB)**

**<sup>9</sup>“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.”**

In one of his most beautiful psalms David confessed, “<sup>1</sup> O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*. <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. <sup>3</sup> You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways” ([Psalm 139:1-3 NASB](#)). Through Jeremiah God said, “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds” ([Jeremiah 17:10 NASB](#)). Three times in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said, “Your Father who sees in secret will repay you” ([Matthew 6:4, 6, 18](#)).

**Matthew 6:4 (NASB)**

**<sup>4</sup>So that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.**

**Matthew 6:6 (NASB)**

**<sup>6</sup>But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.**

**Matthew 6:18 (NASB)**

**<sup>18</sup>So that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.**

There is obviously such a thing as relative human goodness. Many unbelievers live on a high moral plane compared to most people. But that is not the kind of goodness that satisfies God, because nothing is truly good that is done from any motive other than His glory and done in any power but His own. Everything that is done in the flesh can only serve the flesh and is by nature tainted with imperfection and self-interest. It cannot be done out of the only right motive, that of pleasing and glorifying God. Whether done to impress others with one's goodness, to react to peer pressure, to alleviate guilt feelings, or simply to feel better about oneself, anything that is not done for God and through His power is basically sinful and unacceptable to Him—no matter how outwardly good and self-sacrificial it may appear to be.

David committed terrible sins while he served as God's anointed king of God's chosen nation. As noted in previous teachings, many of his sins, such as his adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah, were capital offenses for which God could justly have demanded David's life. But the basic motivation and direction of David's life were not selfish ambition and unrighteousness but the service and worship of God. He readily acknowledged and confessed his sins before God, throwing himself on the Lord's mercy and grace.

Judas, on the other hand, although outwardly upright and religious and a professed follower of Christ, was thoroughly self-centered. Inwardly he came to have contempt for

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Christ and His gospel of grace. The heart desires that moved those two men were open books to the Lord, and their respective guilt and deeds will be judged for what they truly were and not for the way they appeared to other men.

If [Romans 2:6-16](#) teaches anything, it teaches that a redeemed life will produce holy living and that a life that reflects no holy living has no claim on eternal life. Right living, which can only come from right motivation, is the God-given evidence of genuine salvation. Lack of right living is just as certain evidence of lostness.

Note these facts.

1. A specific day of judgment is coming. It is fixed.

[Matthew 25:31-32 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>31</sup> **“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne.**

<sup>32</sup> **All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”**

[Hebrews 9:27 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>27</sup> **“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment.”**

[2 Peter 2:9 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> **“Then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.”**

[2 Peter 3:7 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>7</sup> **“But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”**

[1 John 4:17 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>17</sup> **“By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the Day of Judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.”**

[Jude 1:14-15 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>14</sup> **“It was also about these men *that* Enoch, *in* the seventh *generation* from Adam, prophesied, saying, ‘Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones,**

<sup>15</sup> **to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”**

2. In that day **“the secrets of men”** will be judged. All secrets will be exposed, the secret thoughts and deeds done...

- |                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| a. in the dark         | d. silently |
| b. behind closed doors | e. alone    |
| c. off to the side     | f. quietly  |

[Luke 12:2 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> **“But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.”**

**1 Corinthians 4:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup>“Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.”

**Numbers 32:23 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup>“But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.”

**Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup>“For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”

3. Jesus Christ is the One who will do the judging. He is the One who...
- has earned the right to judge by obeying God perfectly. He is the One who has lived a sinless life and died for men.
  - has experienced life on earth in the flesh and can understand and sympathize with men in their infirmities ([Hebrews 2:15-18](#); [Hebrews 4:15-16](#)).

**Hebrews 2:15-18 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup>“And might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

<sup>16</sup>For assuredly He does not give help to angels, but He gives help to the descendant of Abraham.

<sup>17</sup>Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

<sup>18</sup>For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.”

**Hebrews 4:15-16 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup>“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are*, yet without sin.

<sup>16</sup>Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

**Matthew 25:32 (NASB)**

<sup>32</sup>“All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”

**John 5:22 (NASB)**

<sup>22</sup>“For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son.”

**Acts 10:42 (NASB)**

<sup>42</sup>“And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.”

**Acts 17:31 (NASB)**

<sup>31</sup>“Because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.”

**Romans 2:16 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup>“On the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.”

**Romans 14:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup>“But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.”

**2 Timothy 4:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>“I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom.”

**1 Peter 4:4-5 (NASB)**

<sup>4</sup>“In *all* this, they are surprised that you do not run with *them* into the same excesses of dissipation, and they malign *you*;  
<sup>5</sup> but they will give account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”

4. The standard or rule by which men shall be judged is the gospel.

**John 12:48 (NASB)**

<sup>48</sup>“He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.”

**John 14:24 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup>“He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Fathers who sent Me.”

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup>“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,

<sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

<sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

**1 Timothy 6:3-5 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup>“If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness,

<sup>4</sup> he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions,

<sup>5</sup> and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.”

**1 John 3:23 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup>“This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.”