Romans 2:6-10) God will judge the moralist because their works also fall short of God's perfect standard.

Charles E. Whisnant, Pastor/Teacher: May 16, 2010

No one should take sin more seriously than the Christian. Paul’s indictment of mankind should ring true in our hearts and cause us to see sin in its more restrained forms. In particular, we should see that the sin of self-righteousness is not just a “Jewish sin.” There may be no greater need in the church of Jesus Christ today than that of a deep conviction of sin in our midst.

When revival breaks out among God’s people, it usually begins with an eye-opening encounter with the depth of our own sin. Paul’s words here are for self-righteous sinners such as ourselves. As we study Paul’s teaching in Romans 2, our goal will be to identify the nature of the belief and behavior which Paul is condemning as sin. We will also seek to isolate the causes and the cure of the sin of self-righteousness. May God open our hearts to comprehend and to respond to His Word.

**Now, when God looks at a life** and

* He sees a life that seeks glory and
* He sees a life that seeks to be honored by God and not men and
* He sees a life that longs for immortality that isn't bound to this earth,
* He sees a life that longs for incorruption,
* He sees a life that isn't engulfed in corruption,
* He sees a life that seeks the heavenly dimension,

**TO THAT PERSON, GOD GIVES ETERNAL LIFE.**

***That is the standard by which God will judge****.*

**What is eternal life**? Jesus Christ**.**

**What does it mean to have eternal life?** To have Jesus Christ living where? In me.

***Now you can start even with Adam and you can go all the way to today and there will be a patient continual seeking to do what is right in the heart of a true believer. They are made manifest by their deeds. That is a pattern of life.***

**At the time of judgment in the future,** when God sends the righteous into His eternal heaven and the unrighteous into an eternal hell, the ones who enter into eternal heaven will be those who have sought. You see it there? They have sought.

* They do seek for glory. It doesn't say they've deserved it. They just sought it.
* They had aspirations for what was heavenly and godly.
* They sought for glory and honor and incorruption. And they'll receive the glory and the honor and the peace of eternal life for they are the ones that have worked good.
* **And I submit to you that if there is no such good work visible in a life, then there is no genuine salvation**. If this text says anything, it says that. And if it doesn't say that, it doesn't say anything.
* **We will be rewarded then for our deeds because they are the proof of the righteousness within us.**
* And in the third chapter he'll tell us how to get the righteousness of God within us. And this applies to the Jew first and also to the Gentile. God will give heavenly and eternal blessing to the Jew and the Gentile.

**Let's look at the second group**. **The works of those who receive wrath, verses 8 and 9.**

First one, verse 8, look at it. The word is contentious.. And the basic concept of the word is self-seeking. And the first characterization of an unrighteous person is that he is utterly wrapped up in what pleases him...what pleases him. What satisfies me? What makes me feel good? What makes me happy? What feathers my bed?

**First there is rebellion and out of that rebellion comes disobedience and then comes dire sinfulness as the life simply goes toward unrighteous behavior**.

Now listen, the road to hell then is basically very simply defined. It is a spirit of opposition toward the lordship of Jesus Christ.

That is clearly the message of this text. Eternal life belongs to those who show the work of God in their hearts by living under the obedience of the lordship of Christ. Those who refuse to do so are the unregenerate and those who receive wrath.

“Indignation", the Greek root means to rush along, to be in a hurry, to be in a heat or a sweat, to breathe violently.

"wrath" which is another term for anger, a little differently.

* It means to reach a pitch of fury.
* It is the end of mercy. It is the end of grace.

Verse 9, "Tribulation and anguish," he adds those as if we don't have enough words...tribulation, *thlipsis*,

* it means to put pressure on something, or to press it.
* It is used in ***Acts 11:19*** of the crushing persecution of the early church.
* It is used of the struggles of saints in ***Romans 12:12***.
* It is used of Paul's being persecuted nearly to death in ***2 Corinthians 1:8.***
* It is used of Christ's sufferings in ***Colossians 1:24*** as He was put through tribulation, pressing pressure, oppression. ll