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ALL CHRISTIANS ARE TO HAVE DIVINE EVALUATION

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JAMES
JAMES 2:12-13
NUMBER 17

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JAMES 2:12-13 "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment."

The greatest need of every Christian life is Bible doctrine stored in the human spirit. From this storehouse, believers live and labor and love.

JAMES 2:12 "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." "So speak ye" is a present, active, imperative of the word "laleo" and it means to keep on doing this. The force of the sentence will show us that he is saying we are to keep on speaking in such a way that we will avoid sins of the tongue. The words "and so do" come from the greek word "poieo" and it too is a present, active, imperative and it means "keep on doing this." "As they" refers here to believers. "Shall be" is a present, active, participle of "mello" and it means those believers who are to receive judgment. (The judgment doesn't have anything to do with the final judgment, it is rather here referring to the period of evaluation which will come to every Christian at the judgment seat of Christ.) The word "judged" here is a present, passive, infinitive of "krino" and it means to receive judgment in a court of law. Believers are actually going into court in their resurrection bodies and at that point the work of each believer will be evaluated. **THIS IS NOT A JUDGMENT CONCERNING PUNISHMENT IN HELL.** That kind of judgment and punishment is for unbelievers only.

This verse is actually saying this--There is a definite time in the future when it will be God's purpose to evaluate the accomplishments of every believer in his resurrection body. In this evaluation period all human good will be washed away and all self-righteousness will be destroyed. So the word "judged" in this verse actually means evaluation. So in the future a time is coming when all human good will be removed. Throughout eternity not one single act of human good will be performed.

Then we read "by the law of liberty" but the greek says "through the law of liberty."

So this 11th verse actually means this--

"Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ keep on speaking in such a way and keep on doing in such a way that when you come to the evaluation period, you will move into perfect freedom."

Believers who really understand the Christian life are living in a realm of freedom and liberty. They are free to make decisions on the basis of doctrine. They are free to live their lives as unto the Lord. Once a person is born again there is a new set of rules, but they are rules of liberty and freedom. The law of liberty resists and rejects all human ability and all human talent. Both personally and as a government, we are up to our ears in human works and human good. We are the generation which can be described in these words--**MAN BY MAN'S ABILITY TRYING TO SOLVE MAN'S PROBLEMS.** But remember this--No plan of man will ever replace God's plan. Salvation moves us into a new sphere, a whole new arena, and it is the arena of freedom.

Four Laws Under Which Christians Operate

The Bible gives us four laws under which all born again people live.

1. THE LAW OF FREEDOM AND LIBERTY.

This law is aimed toward doctrine, and if we know Bible doctrine then we are free to live as we please. So we can say a safe motto for a Christian is "Live by doctrine then do as you please."

2. THE LAW OF LOVE.

This law is aimed toward others. This is a relaxed mental attitude type of love.

3. THE LAW OF SUPREME SACRIFICE.

This law is directed toward God and not too many believers are asked to live under this law. (Paul lived under this law so he could fulfill the purposes God had for his life and service.)

4. THE LAW OF EXPEDIENCY.

This law is directed toward unbelievers. We might do certain things that we might not otherwise do in order that we might be an example to the believer.

Now the law of freedom is to function under grace. We are saved by grace and we are free to serve the Lord under grace.

GALATIANS 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. The only real and genuine freedom is the freedom the Lord gives. The law of love functions in us as we are filled by the Holy Spirit and this leads us to a relaxed mental attitude toward others.

ROMANS 5:5 "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

GALATIANS 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,"

The law of supreme sacrifice in where some believer gives up the normal functions of life in order to fulfill the divine plan. (This is discussed more fully in 1 Cor. 9:1-15.)

The law of expediency is the function of a believer under certain conditions of evangelism so he can have the maximum influence on someone who is not a believer and not as strong as the believer.

So this verse 12 says this--"So keep on speaking and so keep on doing since those through the law of freedom are about to receive evaluation. This will happen at the judgment seat of Christ, after the Rapture of the church, when believers are in their resurrection bodies, and it takes place to let us know that no human good will ever remain in heaven or in the presence of the Lord.

All human good will be once and forever destroyed.

(This is mentioned in all these passages--Romans 14:10, 2 Cor. 5:10, 1 Cor. 3:11-16, 2 Timothy 2:12, Hebrews 6:7-12.)

In order to understand this verse there are three doctrines we must keep in view. Let us look at an outline of these three doctrines.

THE DOCTRINE OF HUMAN GOOD

1. HUMAN GOOD IS IDENTIFIED IN SCRIPTURE AS DEAD WORKS
 Human works is dead to God and dead to God's plan.
HEBREWS 6:1 "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,"
2. HUMAN WORKS IS NEVER ACCEPTABLE TO GOD OR TO DIVINE VIEWPOINT
ISAIAH 64:6 "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf: and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."
3. THEREFORE HUMAN WORKS HAS NO PLACE IN THE PLAN OF GOD.
 Grace is apart from human works.
2 TIMOTHY 1:9 "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,"
4. HUMAN GOOD WILL NOT SAVE MANKIND.
TITUS 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"
 (One of the worst acts of human good is "I invited Jesus into my heart." That is human works.)
 The way to be saved is to believe in Jesus Christ.
5. THE BELIEVERS' HUMAN GOOD IS REVEALED AND DESTROYED AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.
1 CORINTHIANS 3:12-15 "Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."
6. HUMAN WORKS IS THE BASIS OF THE UNBELIEVERS' INDICTMENT AT THE LAST JUDGMENT.
 This is the subject of Rev. 20:12-15. Every person who rejects Christ actually says, "I don't need the work of Christ for salvation. I am willing to stand on my own works. I believe they are good enough." NO SIN OR SINS WILL BE MENTIONED AT THE LAST JUDGMENT. All the sins were judged at the cross and can't be brought up again.
7. DISTINCTION MUST BE MADE BETWEEN MORALITY AND HUMAN GOOD.
 Morality is a part of the divine establishment. Morality is for the entire human race.
ROMANS 13:4-5 "For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain; for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake."

THE DOCTRINE OF DIVINE GOOD

Please remember this--there will be no human good in heaven. Heaven will be free from human good and all self-righteousness. The only righteousness in heaven will be grace righteousness.

1. THERE ARE THREE SOURCES OF DIVINE GOOD.
 - a. The first source of divine good comes from the filling of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. The second source of divine good comes from doctrine in the human spirit. (This is where we build the edification complex.)
 - c. The soul also produces divine good as we take in doctrine.

2. DIVINE GOOD RESOLVES THE ANGELIC CONFLICT.
ROMANS 12:21 "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

3. GRACE PERCEPTION, THE INTAKE OF DOCTRINE, IS THE MEANS OF PRODUCING DIVINE GOOD.
COLOSSIANS 1:9-10 "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;"

2 TIMOTHY 2:21 "If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

4. THE BELIEVER IN LIVING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE RECEIVES GRACE AND IS THEREBY DESIGNED TO PRODUCE DIVINE GOOD.
EPHESIANS 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

5. PRODUCTION OF DIVINE GOOD IS ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY STABILITY.
2 THESSALONIANS 2:17 "Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work."

6. THEREFORE, THE GRACE PRINCIPLE OF DIVINE GOOD IS FOUND IN MANY PASSAGES CONNECTED WITH PRODUCTION.
1 CORINTHIANS 15:10 "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."
2 CORINTHIANS 9:8 "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:"

7. DIVINE GOOD WILL BE REWARDED.
2 CORINTHIANS 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

THE DOCTRINE OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST
(Or - You Will Have Your Day In Court)

1. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST ELIMINATES ANY NEED FOR HUMAN EVALUATION OF A CHRISTIAN'S LIFE.
ROMANS 14:10 "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."
You don't need to be judged by Christians or by others. God will take care of the judging himself. God reserves the right to judge others.
2. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST IS THE PLACE WHERE HUMAN AND DIVINE GOOD OF EVERY CHRISTIAN WILL BE EVALUATED.
2 CORINTHIANS 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."
3. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST IS WHERE YOU LOSE OR GAIN REWARDS.
This is explained in 1 Cor. 3:11-16. This has nothing to do with salvation. Believers are in their resurrection bodies when this occurs.
4. AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST THE BELIEVER CAN BE DENIED REWARDS BUT CAN NEVER LOSE HIS SALVATION. 2 TIMOTHY 2:12-13 "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."
5. REVERSIONISTIC BELIEVERS HAVE NO REWARDS AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.
This is explained in Hebrews 6:7-12
Also here in time those in reversionism lose a great deal of happiness and stability.
6. THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST IS ILLUSTRATED BEAUTIFULLY BY THE ANCIENT ATHLETIC GAMES.
This is in 1 Cor. 9:24-27
7. BELIEVERS ARE REWARDED AT CHRIST'S JUDGMENT SEAT ON THE BASIS OF THE GRACE OF GOD.

JAMES 2:13 "For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment." We have now come to one of the most misunderstood verses in the New Testament. The words "He shall have" are not found in the original. It should read, "For judgment without mercy." This is the act of judgment and comes from the word "krisis." Judgment without mercy means here that God has no mercy in judging human good. The phrase "that have showed no mercy" really says, "For those not having done mercy." It simply means that if you don't live by grace you can't produce divine good.

Let's get a summary of this verse thus far.

1. The believer who does not live by grace cannot be rewarded by grace.
2. Reward at the judgment seat of Christ is based on the law of freedom and the action of mercy.
3. To do no mercy is the believer's failure to function in grace as the Christian life is lived out.
4. All grace function depends on the filling of the Holy Spirit. So we receive grace from God and we must live by grace.
5. Everything done in human ability and human effort is lost. There is not even one small spot in heaven for even the smallest act of human good.
6. So the subject is operational death--human good is dead to God.

There is now a second sentence in this verse 13. It says, "Mercy rejoiceth against judgment." The word for rejoiceth here is a present, middle, indicative of "Katakauomai" and it means to boast, to exult over something. So mercy will boast, will exult for joy at the judgment seat of Christ. Now some people may say, "I don't want any reward." Well, remember this--You are not going to get a reward so you can be glorified, but you will get a reward so all the credit can be given to God. The reward glorifies God, not you. Billy Graham is not going to be walking around in heaven with a great reward, for every bit of the reward he gets will belong to God. No human good will be there, simply because there is no human good in God.

So who does the boasting? The grace principle does the boasting, that's who.