

Romans 2:1-11

Sec 2. “The end of God’s appointing this day is for the manifestation of the glory of His mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; & of His justice, in the damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked & disobedient. For then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, & receive that fullness of joy & refreshing, which shall come from the presence of the Lord; but the wicked who know not God, & obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast into eternal torments, & be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, & from the glory of His power.”

A. Let’s ask the question, “Why the judgment?” The answer is very similar to another crucial question: “Why was Christ crucified.” Sec 2 begins by saying, “The end [purpose] of God’s appointing this day [of judgment] is for the manifestation [demonstration] of [2 important attributes of God]:

1. “the glory of His mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect;”
2. “His justice, in the damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked & disobedient.”
3. God is infinite, eternal, & unchangeable in “His mercy” & in “His justice.” God cannot help but uphold these 2 attributes. He cannot deny or lay aside either of these 2 attributes of His Holy perfection.
 - a. Because He is just & holy, sin must be punished. God revealed to Moses His character saying, “**The Lord, the Lord God, compassionate & gracious, slow to anger, & abounding in lovingkindness & truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression & sin; yet He will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished” (Ex 34:6-7).**
 - b. Some know that God is merciful so they go to the extreme of denying His justice & holiness. Such persons think of God as the cosmic Santa Claus.
4. The purpose God’s day of judgment is to demonstrate “the glory of His mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; &... His justice, in the damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked & disobedient.”
5. The Father’s purpose for the judgment is similar to His purpose in the crucifixion of Jesus. The cross of Christ perfectly demonstrates His loving mercy & His holy justice.
 - a. The cross shows “the glory of His mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect.
 - b. The cross shows “His justice” in causing the curse due for wicked sinners to fall upon His holy & undefiled Son as a substitute.
 - c. → **Rom 3:21-26**

Sec 2 goes on to tell what God will grant to those who have lively saving faith that is “working through love.”¹ Such elect, righteous persons who obey the gospel of Jesus Christ will, go into everlasting life, & receive that fullness of joy & refreshing.”

1. Even for the most joyful, Christian person you have ever met, they do not experience the “fullness of joy & refreshing” as mentioned here in sec 2.
 - a. Even Christians rich in the Holy Spirit’s fruit of joy have it intermittently. It is never constant or full from the moment such a person gets out of bed until they lay down to sleep again at night.
 - b. The Christian life is full of up & downs— there are mountain tops, hills, valleys, & swampy lowlands. In this life, even those firmly rooted in Christ will often have to “**walk through the valley of the shadow of death**” (Ps 23:4).
2. In glories of heaven & later in the new heavens & new earth, there will be no more sadness, gloom, depression, unrighteous anger, or anxiety. All these emotions will be replaced with the “fullness of joy & refreshing, which shall come from the presence of the Lord.”

Sec 2 closes by saying, “the wicked who know not God, & obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast into eternal torments, & be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, & from the glory of His power.”

A. This section vividly describes what is in store for the reprobate.

1. **Rev 14:10-11** describes this condemnation with gruesome language for each one of the wicked who doesn’t know God & who disobeys His gospel: they “**will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; & he will be tormented with fire & brimstone in the presence of the holy angels & in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever & ever; they have no rest day & night.**”
2. They cry out in grief, regret, & shame yet for eternity their miserable existence will be longer any opportunity for mercy. All they will experience will be His unrelenting, holy wrath.
3. For those who ride the fence by having 1 foot in the church & another in the world, such a threat should scare the wickedness & sin out of you!

B. In keeping the 1st & greatest commandment to “**love the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul & with all your might,**” you must repent & believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. You insult God by having a wicked heart of unbelief that rejects God’s gracious offer only begotten Son for your sin. To reject this offer is to “obey not [to disobey] the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

¹ Gal 5:6.