

## JUDGED BY THE LAW OF LIBERTY

**INTRO:** Are you ready for the judgment day? It is coming soon! Jesus said, "Behold I come quickly." We see that in events around us. What does this have to do with the passage that we are looking at? Everything! James writes that we must be doers of the Word. This is a further explanation of our calling to receive the implanted Word with meekness. Only those who are doers of the Word will enter the Kingdom of God. All people will be judged according to their works. In James 2, the Apostle lays down specific injunctions (partiality) and then lays down the principle behind it. We will be judged! (II Cor. 5:10, Rev. 22:12,13) Doers of the Word, defined as the law of liberty.

### **I. THE LAW OF LIBERTY**

- A. It is the law.
  1. This is the moral law, what we know as the ten commandments. This is law written on the consciences of all men.
  2. But the ten commandments are a summary of all that God commands in his Word: Love me. This is how you do it.
  3. It is not a mere suggestion, but an imperative: "He hath showed thee, O man, what is good (Micah 6:8)".
  4. It is not arbitrary to us whether we will obey or not. "Keep my commandments."
  5. "The law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good (Rom. 7:12)."
- B. But it is described as a law of liberty.
  1. This might seem a contradiction. Are not law and freedom exclusive? Is this not a paradox?
  2. We need to distinguish between Christian freedom and licentiousness.
  3. The law of liberty is the revelation of the will of God for his redeemed children.
  4. In James 1:25, it is called the perfect law of liberty: complete. In the OT it was not complete, then only a schoolmaster.
  5. Now the law is complete having been fulfilled in the Person and work of the Lord Jesus. It has reached its purpose.
- C. The law of liberty is the word of Jesus which proclaims the glad news of freedom to God's elect. (Isa.61:1)
  1. Freedom from condemnation: It is freedom from the guilt of sin and the sentence of death.
  2. It is freedom from the bondage and corruption of sin. The law for the carnal person entices to sin (Rom.7:7,8).
  3. It is the freedom to love God and the neighbor, and to live in the Spirit rather than walking in the works of the flesh.
- D. This law is an indivisible whole.
  1. We may not pick and choose, and then feel good about ourselves (vs. 10,11).
  2. The law of God for his redeemed is like a chain of ten links. Break every commandment or only one, still a lawbreaker.
  3. Love for God means and is translated into love for the neighbor. Therefore no partiality in the church.
  4. We do well by fulfilling the royal law: love your neighbor as thyself (vs. 8).
  5. "BUT BE YE DOERS OF THE WORD, AND NOT HEARERS ONLY..."

### **II. OUR BEING JUDGED BY THAT LAW**

- A. Where there is law, there is judgment.
  1. Vs. 10 speaks to sinner and saint alike.
  2. "For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them (Gal. 3:10)."
  3. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us... (Gal.3:13)."
  4. Those who do not belong to Christ and believe on him have the curse of God and his law on them.
- B. God's people are not judged unto salvation.
  1. There are those who look at our text as a freedom from the covenant of works .
  2. But salvation was never of works. Adam would not receive eternal life through obedience.
  3. The covenant is not of works but pure grace! Our salvation and the covenant are based in Christ and his obedience.
  4. We are saved by grace through faith, and that not of ourselves. It is a gift of God (Eph.2:8).
  5. Therefore the salvation of God's elect is secure eternally, through this life and in the judgment day..
- C. We will be judged as to our reward.
  1. All believers in Christ must appear before the Judgment seat of Christ (Rom. 14:10, II Cor. 5:10).
  2. Our words and our works will be made manifest as to motive and intent and ability.
  3. Every believer's work will be tried (I Cor. 3:13-15) and purified. Outward actions reveal what is in the heart.
  4. Salvation by grace through faith does not make us careless, but grateful so that we are careful to show gratitude.
  5. What an encouragement to obedience. God rewards us for that which he works in us!
  6. The more that we do in love for Christ, the more will be our "treasures in heaven".

### **III. OBSERVATIONS AND INJUNCTIONS THAT FLOW FROM THIS**

- A. Oh the happiness of those who are in Christ.
  1. To a believer, the law is a law of liberty, whereas to the unbeliever, it is a law of bondage and death.
  2. We serve the Lord without slavish fear (Luke 1:57). The law is not a harsh and impossible taskmaster.
  3. We delight in the law for it is mixed with gospel.
- B. We shall be judged by the law at the last day!
  1. The books will be opened (our consciences).
  2. The works of the righteous are evidences of God's glory and work in us and evidence of our union with Christ.
- C. An appeal to cultivate holiness in our lives.
  1. "So speak..." what warnings there are in Scriptures concerning the tongue (James 3, Matt. 12:36).
  2. "So do..." our actions must be consistent with our confession. Not everyone who says, Lord, Lord...
- D. Showing mercy in judgment.
  1. How easily in the congregation we can look down or judge other members, without mercy.
  2. Show mercy to all the members, with no partiality. How do we do this?
  3. So also in the judgment day we will be judged with mercy.