

GLAD YOU DON'T HAVE TO JUDGE? V2

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When we die, we go to live in the bed we've made.
To paradise, or torments as recorded in Luke 16.
When we see others die, we know they're going to lie in the bed they've made.
We can feel good, or bad about this.
Good if we think a good outcome likely.
If we feel bad, thinking the person didn't make a good bed, we might think or say,
"I'm glad I don't have to judge". That's understandable

But it's wrong! we DO have to judge.

Because NOT to judge, makes it much easier for us to deny our **responsibility** for that person's condition.

Is that person going to hell?
Has he been saved from that?
He has, or he hasn't.
That is the way in which we have to judge – have they been saved or not?

How are they saved? What is our responsibility, if any, for this?

Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Men are saved by their faith in the gospel of Christ – the good news that Jesus is the Christ and He has made a way for us to be re-united with God.
How do men obtain that faith that they might be saved?
Through hearing the word of God.

Romans 10:14 "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?"

To Call requires belief
Belief requires hearing the word of God
Hearing requires a preacher
And preachers must be SENT! They must be supported in their work.

And that is one purpose of the church – US!
God has provided the means of salvation – the Gospel.
It is OUR responsibility to tell people of it.

What is it that will make us preach that gospel, and make sure that it gets preached?
The fact that it is a matter of life or death – eternal life or death!

If we deny, or put out of our mind, the consequences of NOT obeying the gospel, if we don't judge, it's easier for us to ignore the importance of it.

We must **acknowledge** that people will go to hell – forever, if they don't obey God.
The church has been given this knowledge – we are responsible for it.

Here is what God thinks of this:

Ezekiel 33:1-5 “Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.”

Sure, perfectly understandable, “But wait, that’s not all ...” God continues ...

Ezekiel 33:6 “But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; **but** his blood will I require at the watchman’s hand.”

And to make sure we don’t think God is just talking about civil defense:

Ezekiel 33:7-9 “So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.”

We must warn the wicked!

Is God serious about this? Is obedience optional?

Acts 17:30-31 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

God has COMMANDED

All men everywhere to repent

He WILL judge the world.

He was serious enough about this that Jesus had to die on the cross.

Is that too soft? Do you doubt the seriousness of this? Do you question what form that judgment will take?

2 Thess 1:7-9 “... when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”

God has said it is coming. We must sound the alarm and get the Gospel to people before it is too late.

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Paul recognized this responsibility and what it was he needed to do – we **must** also:

Romans 1:15-16 “So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

Jesus suffered much to bring us salvation.

Paul and the other apostles suffered much to tell us of the offer of salvation God has made to us.

Why do people think they can **ignore** what Jesus and the apostles said?

What makes people think they can make God **conform** to their thoughts and wishes?

What makes people think that God will take them on THEIR terms, when He has gone to so much effort to show us the way back to Him – through Christ.

“Just accept Jesus as your Lord and Personal Savior”,

“Say the Sinner’s Prayer”

“I have a good relationship with God but I don’t go to church”

“If he wants to be saved, but dies before he’s baptized, he’s ok”.

To believe such things we have to deny God, deny Christ and deny the Apostles because they have said differently.

Jesus said plainly that we ALL will be judged and what it is we’ll be judged by:

John 12:47 “And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”

The words Jesus spoke will judge us **all** on that day.

Who are those who REJECT Jesus?

Those that reject His words and do not obey.

Our actions, what we do, or don’t do, will be compared to His words – and nothing else!

Not our thoughts or feelings.

Not the thoughts or feelings expressed in words of any man.

The words Jesus spoke.

The words Jesus came to this world to preach.

And it’s not just the words in RED.

Jesus gave his words to his Apostles, through the Holy Spirit

John 14:26: “But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

And not just the things Jesus said on this earth ...

John 16:13,14 “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will

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shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.”

Our actions, what we do, will be compared to – **judged** - by what Jesus said as brought to us by the apostles. Am I making this up? What did the apostle Paul say:

Romans 2:16 “In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”

Do we believe His words? How do we demonstrate that belief? How do we test it?

Romans 2:13 “For not the hearers of the law *are* just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.”

We show our belief by DOING! We are Justified – made just by our OBEYING the law that demonstrates our BELIEF in the law and our FAITH in He who gave it.

Romans 10:16 “But they have not all **obeyed** the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath **believed** our report?”

Belief **requires** obedience – “Who has believed our report?” - THOSE THAT OBEYED!

The justification of our faith is in our DOING, by our ACTIONS, not our words or thoughts.

John 8:51 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man **keep** my saying, he shall never see death”

Our CALL upon the Lord, must be out of LOVE for him.

John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments ... “

John 14:21 “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him”

And he tells us what form this love MUST TAKE.

1 John 3:18 “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.”

To be justified we must OBEY and KEEP God's Commandments.

This requires ACTION on our part.

To say otherwise, is to DENY GOD'S WORD!

Why do you think God said our belief is a WORK?

John 6:28,29 “Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.”

Do you see that God requires obedience, and those who have NOT obeyed are lost. We must KNOW this to take proper responsibility for spreading the Gospel.

Now, what is it we must obey?

First we realize that all spiritual blessings are IN Christ.

Ephesians 1:3 “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* **in** Christ.”

And what he mean by “spiritual blessings:

Ephesians 2:12-13 “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.”

We were Gentiles, outside the family of God.

In what condition, “WITHOUT CHRIST” - outside of, not having Him.

No Hope, without God.

But “IN CHRIST” we are made nigh, near to God,
Made near by the blood of Christ.

The **word** will JUDGE US. By how closely we CONFORM to that word.

What does God's word say? How do we get IN Christ.

Romans 6:3 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?”

Jesus bled when he died on that cross. From his Head, from His Hands, from his back, from His side. In baptism we are buried with Him and come in contact with that blood – the blood that will wash away our sins and bring us near to God.

Can we be saved, brought near to God **without** that?

Was the BLOOD OF CHRIST not necessary?

Is BAPTISM not necessary?

We might want to THINK so, but how will we be judged?

Will God make up the rules later?

No, WE WILL BE JUDGED BY THE WORD – the word we've just read.

We MUST have faith, belief that God means what He says. We are saved by that faith. Look at the other place where we're told how we get INTO Christ:

Galatians 3:26,27 “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

“For as many ...” what of those that have NOT been baptized? They have NOT put on Christ and as a result:

Galatians 3:29 “And if ye *be* Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

What does the IF mean? It means we may or may not be CHRIST’S.
And if not, then we are not God’s children, we have no inheritance. Remember:

Ephesians 2:12-13 “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ”

Will we be judged according to God’s word or not?
Do we have to be baptized or not?

We must look at people in this way – that unless they obey, they are lost.
Do you love them? What is more important than their souls?

Mark 8:36 “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”

These are God’s words. They are what will judge all of us.

Do you see the importance of getting this word, the Gospel, out?
It’s the job of the church – us – to do so.

And of course before we look at someone else to ask, “Are they going to hell?” We need to ask ourselves, “Are WE going to hell?”.

Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of the living God?
If so, show your belief by your obedience to his command.
Repent towards God.

How do we call on the name of the Lord?
He tells us, right here:

Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

- Ed Kelleher, West Columbia church of Christ 1/2/2011 am