

Principles of Judgment, Part 3

John MacArthur

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 2:1-16.

B. God is coming to judge the world. (Psalm 9:7, 96:13)

C. The judgment is called Day of Wrath, the Revelation of the Righteous Judgment of God, Day of Judgment and Perdition, and the Great Day. (Romans 2, Revelation 6, II Peter 3:7, Jude 6)

D. It will occur at the second coming of Jesus Christ. (II Timothy 4:1, II Thessalonians 1:8, Revelation 20, Matthew 13:41-43)

E. All of human history moves toward the judgment. (Hebrews 10)

F. The standard for judgment is revealed in six elements in Romans 2.

II. Knowledge.

A. Man is a sinner condemned to judgment.

B. God will judge us based upon what we know. The fact that we judge others shows that we know enough to be condemned.

III. Truth.

A. The hypocrites hope that God will judge on an outward illusion.

B. Hypocrites will experience God's wrath. (Job 8:13, 36:13)

IV. Guilt.

V. Deeds. (Revelation 20, Jeremiah 17:10, Isaiah 3, Matthew 16:27, I Corinthians 3, II Corinthians 5:10, Galatians 6:7, Romans 14:12)

A. There is a place for works in judgment.

B. God will judge us based on the product of our life.

C. The actions of men form an index of their character. (Isaiah 48:11, Jeremiah 31, I Timothy 1:15, Ephesians 2:8-9)

D. We will be judged by our works, but we will be saved by grace. (Philippians 2:12, Ephesians 2:10)

E. One cannot be saved by works, but he can be saved unto works.

F. Two groups.

1. Those whose deeds manifest that they receive eternal life.

a. These seek glory. The goal of the true Christian is to seek God's will.

b. As the believer seeks the glory of God, he seeks after the honor that God promises.

c. The believer's perspective is heavenly. (Colossians 3)

d. Works without redemptive aspiration are dead works; aspiration without good works is presumption.

2. Those whose deeds manifest that they receive eternal wrath.

a. There is no exemption for anyone based upon religious affiliation.

b. The unrighteous person is characterized as being self-seeking (II Corinthians 5:15) and obedient to unrighteousness.

c. God's tolerance will end with these. (Luke 4, Acts 19, 1:19, Romans 12:12, II Corinthians 1:8, Colossians 1:24)

G. How a person manifests good deeds.

1. Righteousness comes through the righteousness of Christ.

2. The righteousness of Christ comes through faith in Jesus and His redemptive plan.

VI. Impartiality.

VII. Motives.

Application questions:

1. How does judging other people reveal that a person knows enough to be judged by?

2. What does it mean that a person will be judged by his works?

3. How does one obtain the righteousness necessary to produce good works? Explain.
