



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – October 20, 2019

Heart to Heart...

We need to study and be truth seekers in our study. One of those areas is the idea of the Day of Judgment. Many believe and teach that all our good deeds will be weighed against all our bad deeds (sins) to see whether or not they have been good enough to be saved.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” (II Corinthians 5:10) It might seem like our good will be compared to our bad reading this on the surface but looking in context, in truth, something bigger comes out. If you believe your good will be weighed against you bad, how can you believe: *“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast in God.”?* (Ephesians 2:8-9) Over the years I’ve heard many preachers and teachers in the Lord’s church use the II Corinthian 5:10 verse to show how all will be judged by their deeds. At times I’ve heard them leave the impression that on the Day of Judgment we will either be saved or condemned on the basis of good and evil we have done.

Look closely at the context of II Corinthians 5. He begins by showing that we look not at the seen but the unseen as they are eternal (II Corinthians 4:16-18). Proceeding into chapter 5 Paul is still focused on the eternal unseen compared to our physical seen. He leads us into verses 6-8 speaking of being of good courage, walking by faith, not by sight and prefer to be with the Lord. Then comes his statement, *“Therefore, we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to the Lord.”* (II Corinthians 6:9) Because of Jesus and what He has done by giving His life, their ambition is to please Him. It’s a love relationship. There is nothing mentioned about our deeds, our good or bad determining our salvation. Simply put, being pleasing to the Lord is what’s at stake. Paul wanted to be with Jesus and that means allowing Jesus to be His judge as Jesus would stand good for his sins. In his previous life he persecuted the Lord’s church and was the greatest of sinners (I Timothy 1:15). Yet in all this, he found mercy and grace to cleanse him of his sins. On this Day of Judgment, Jesus will make all things

clear, who belongs to Him and those who don't. Those trustingly cleansed by His blood and those who aren't.

As he pens the words, we must all appear, we will. But the assessment will be to the good or to the bad, not both!! The key word is *'whether'*. It means either, or and not both. One or the other. It's the same word used in verse 9 comparing at home with the Lord or absent. Paul wanted to be pleasing to the Lord if he is at home with Him or absent, still living on this earth! Paul spoke in I Corinthians 4:4: ***“For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.”*** When we appear before the judgment seat that day, there will be no good or bad deeds determining your salvation but only Jesus who stands good for us now. ***“Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”*** (Romans 8:1) ***“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord...and their sins and lawless deeds I will remember no more.”*** (Hebrews 10:16-17) Sins are forgiven in Jesus. His blood releases us from all sin to those who are penitent and immersed into Christ. The covenant is established. What will you stand before the Lord for? If your sins have been paid by Jesus, condemnation will not be part of you. Our labor in the Lord is because we are His workmanship created for good works (Ephesians 2:10) Let's just please Him in that as our sins have been dealt with. ***“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”*** (I Corinthians 15:58) Think about it!!!

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