

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Volume: 694 February 21, 2019

"It's Not My Fault!"

Bill Brinkworth

Since the very first man and woman, it has always been convenient and guilt-relieving to blame someone else for our actions or circumstances. When cornered by God for breaking the commandment God had given Adam, Adam's excuse was that Eve gave the forbidden fruit to him, so he ate it (Gen. 3:12). Eve's justification for committing the first sin was, "... The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat" (Gen 3:13). The way out of avoiding guilt is often blaming another for our transgression, but it does not work.

Husbands quite often blame their wives, when something does not go right around the house. Many wives have used the excuse for not submitting to their husband, "I can't submit to my husband because he's not a good leader." Teenagers have justified not obeying their parents with the excuse, "My parents aren't saved, so I don't have to obey them." Many steal from God (Mal 3:8) and rationalize their behavior by saying, "I can't afford to tithe, so God will understand that I don't give to the local church." Too many do not go to church with the excuse, "Someone at the church hurt my feelings, so I won't go there anymore." The most famous of excuses heard by

many teachers is, “I don’t have my homework, ‘cause the dog ate it.” Ignorance also has been used as an excuse, when it is said; “I didn’t know, so it can’t be my fault.” Unfortunately, we all have excuses that we think justify our actions.

However, in a far, forgotten corner, an old, dusty Book whispers a verse that negates all excuses, “*So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God*” (Rom. 14:12). No matter what our excuse, God’s Word says we will have to give an account for our actions, and another’s actions will not be accepted for our not doing the right thing.

This verse is directed to Christians. It reminds believers, that any excuse that they have for doing or saying the wrong thing will not pardon them from one day giving a personal account before the most perfect Judge ever — God Himself.

For believers, all sin is forgiven and forgotten (Heb. 10:17). Saved individuals will not be judged for their sin. Their sin was forgiven and forgotten when they received Jesus’ payment for their sins. Christians, however, will be scrutinized by God for what they did or did not do for the Lord. Here is some of what the Bible says about a Christian’s judgment:

Believers will not be at the White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15) for their sins, but they will be judged by Christ:

“But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set

at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” Rom. 14:10

Believers will have to give account for their own decisions:

*“Who will render to every man according to his deeds:”
Rom. 2:6*

“Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.” I Cor. 3:8

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” II Cor. 5:10 (The “bad” is not referring to evil deeds, but those deeds that were worthless, or done for the wrong motives.)

*“Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.” Psa. 62:12
Also: II Chron. 6:30, Rom. 14:12, Gal. 6:4-5, Rev. 2:23.*

All will reap the consequences in this life for doing the wrong thing, no matter their excuse:

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Gal. 6:7

“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” Gal. 6:8

“But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.” Col. 3:25

All can reap good consequences for doing the right thing:

“Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.” Eph. 6:8

Believers will receive rewards for doing the right thing or suffer loss for not doing the right thing:

“... Now if any man build upon this foundation [Jesus Christ] gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.” I Cor. 3:11-15

“Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.” Col. 3:24

Gratefully, not one saved individual will ever have to answer for one of his sins. They were all miraculously paid for when that person accepted Christ's sacrificial death as payment for his sins. However, every child of God will one day answer for what they did for the cause of Christ after they were saved. Did they sit and soak, or did they submit and serve? No excuses for not doing what he was required or shown to do will be accepted when the believer is judged by God! Reward or loss? The choice is yours.

“God offers freedom from guilt, judgment, and self-condemnation.”

Judgment Seat of Christ

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“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” II Cor. 5:10

All believers will one day be judged for what they did for the Lord with the time God gave them on this earth. It will be a different time than the judgment of the lost and is called the Judgment Seat of Christ.

At this judgment some of the rewards will be “crowns” given to the faithful. Here are the crowns the Bible mentions:

Incorruptible Crown — a crown given to those trying to live the way the Word of God commands:

“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible ... But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” I Cor. 9:25-27

Crown of Righteousness — a crown to those that love Jesus’ appearance.

“Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” II Tim. 4:8

Crown of Rejoicing — a crown given to those who won others to Christ; the soul-winners crown.

“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy.” I Thes. 2:19-20

Also: Philippians 4:1.

Crown of Glory — a crown awarded to the faithful pastors.

“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder [pastor] ... Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.” I Peter 5:1-4

Crown of Life — a crown given to those who endured hard times and still loved the Lord through their affliction.

“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” James 1:12 Also: Rev. 2:10.

The Judgment of the Unsaved

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“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

Those that do not receive Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection as payment for their sins will perish and face a different judgment from God. It is called the White Throne Judgment, and they will be judged for their sinful “works”:

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Rev. 20:11-15

If you are not sure that you are saved, and do not want to face the Great White Throne Judgment, please e-mail me (brinkworth@frontier.com) and I would be honored to have the opportunity to show you what the Bible says one must do to have the promise of Heaven.

“You may juggle human laws. You may fool human courts, but there is a judgment to come and from it there is no appeal.” — Gifford