

Romans 2:6~8, part 1

Tonight I want to share with you, from the “book” that has stood the **test of time**... The “Eternal Words” of God... *Heaven and earth shall pass away...but my word endures forever*...

I am reminded of the scope of the task that is set before me this evening... My sole task tonight is to proclaim to you (preach) what the bible says! A very difficult task... The words that I attempt to share with you tonight, find as their origin, the mouth of God! These words that I will attempt to speak to you, came to us out of the mouth of God, down from the splendors of heaven... They come from the Holiest of the Holiest, the highest of the highest... That is their origin. Tonight, I will take such words, and attempt to speak them to you... The words that I share with you tonight, will have to come through a sin stained heart, a mere man, a man with a history of error, speaking these words through lips of clay... I have a daunting task before me... A task, that without the aid of the Holy Spirit of God...I will most certainly fail! I honestly don't know how I'm going to get this message across tonight... *Pray that God will be able to use me*...

Here in chapter 2:1~16...Paul lays out the “*divine*” principles of “*judgment*...”
The very principles that WILL be the Standard used to Judge men! And found at the “*very heart*” of these principles, is...

“The *Basis* of God's Judgment...”

⁶Who... (God) will render to every man according to his deeds:

A Man's “*Guilt*” or “*Innocence*” will be determined by the life he has lived!

T: God will look at my life...the life I have lived here on earth, and *on the basis of what he finds*, will render His Righteous, Impartial Judgment...

T: Listen very closely... For a man to be judged by his deeds is not a “*Contradiction*” to faith in Christ...but rather, it is a “*Confirmation*” to his faith in Christ!

“Our Lives” will manifest whether we have “Genuine Faith” or not!

Tonight, I want to direct your attention to verse 7... It is here, that Paul, *with great accuracy and clarity*, describes the life of the individual, to whom God will reward with eternal life.

According to the bible, *Eternal life*, belongs to those who...

...by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality...

I don't know about you...but I'm amazed at the “*Simplicity*” to which Paul describes and distinguishes the two! God in His wisdom, confines in a “*single statement*,” the life of those who will be rewarded with eternal life.

These are the “*Characteristics*,” the “*Marks*” of someone who posses “Genuine Faith” in God...of someone who “*lives by faith*...” (Romans 1:17)

According to Paul, these are the “*Fruits of faith*.” of a life of a person who possess *genuine faith* in God... In the words of Christ... “*You shall know them by the **fruit** they bear*...”

They are described as those who “continue...people who endure” people who “Seek for glory” and “honor” and “immortality...” A “heavenward, God seeking” heart...

This is contrasted with the other group of people, described in verse 8, even though outwardly religious, will be **“marked”** by an “earthly, self-seeking” heart!

The man Paul is speaking too, is a “Church member...” One who is not like the society around him. Outwardly...he’s a good man, he treats people fair, he even identifies himself with the worship of God, partaking in the things of God... But the trouble for this man is, that God does not judge according to those things! God will look to the content of his life, what he longs for, what he seeks, his desires...

I want to spend the rest of our time, looking at the life of the individual who will receive eternal life...

According to the bible, Eternal life, belongs to those who...
...by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality...

Paul list four characteristics in describing the life of individual “who lives by faith...”
The “First Characteristic” is a “Life” spent in...“Patient Continuance ...”

A “Second Characteristic” is a “Life” spent seeking...“Glory...”

A “Third Characteristic” is a “Life” spent seeking...“Honor...”

A “Fourth Characteristic” is a “Life” spent seeking...“Immortality...”

I just want to make clear... that even though Paul mentions 4 distinct characteristics, these are not 4 different aspect of faith, nor that one must strive to keep all 4 in order to have faith... But rather, these are 4 characteristic of one thing...FAITH. (Illustration-bible)

The “Life of the Just” is “marked” by...“Patient Continuance...”

*ἡσυχία-οὐ-αἰσ...*cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy:—enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting).
...to stay under, that is, remain; to undergo, that is, bear, have fortitude, persevere:—abide, endure, (take) suffer...

The “Salvation” brought about by the “gospel of Christ” is an “Eternal Salvation...”
It’s very important to understand what I’m saying... Many are confused about this matter...

I believe in “Eternal Security...” And really, whether I believe it or not doesn’t matter... Even if I didn’t believe in “Eternal Security” that doesn’t mean that it isn’t true! I’m telling you tonight, that the bible teaches “Eternal Security...”

The bible says, that God is the “Author & Finisher” of our Faith!

Hebrews 12:2...²Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;

★ Listen...if God is the author and finisher of my faith... then it will last!

Whatever God does...will stand the test of time!

⁷To them who by patient continuance in well doing...

The real question when it comes to “Eternal Security” is not, when a person gets saved, can they be lost again... But rather, the real question that needs to be answered, is this... **Is God able to Keep?**

Whatever God does...**IS ETERNAL!**

Time will tell! That's why, Paul points to this one first... If it doesn't last, if its only temporary, it isn't of God! God is the only one that can really change a mans heart! If God doesn't change a man's heart... **it won't last!** **Time will tell!**

The reason many are so confused with this, is they are confused with the mixed message that they are witnessing. A man or woman, who "*professes*" to be a Christian, is "*living a life*" that contradicts it. There's no seeking to glorify God, there's no seeking to honor him, there's no seeking immortality...

And because you love the Lord, you look at them...and your like... *I don't understand that!* Can I just say... **YOU DO UNDERSTAND!** You do understand... **It doesn't line up!** What they profess with their lips doesn't line up with their lives! If you'd simply set aside what they profess to be...and simply look at the "*Fruit*" or "*Deeds*" of their life...the picture would become clear and make much more sense!

It amazes me...that someone can come to the church, come to the front, get baptized, whatever... and later leave, dropping out of the church... Going back to living "*Outside*" the will of God, living in "*disobedience*" to God, living in unrighteousness... And to say that that person posses the salvation described in scripture, is "*ludicrous!*" Listen, the salvation described in scripture, is nothing less than "**CHRIST in YOU!**" And if Christ is in you, and He is eternal, than He will keep you! Eternal Security!

Listen, I wouldn't serve a God, who couldn't keep me...

In Philippians 3, we find Paul warning the church to beware of such men...

¹⁷*Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.* ¹⁸*(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, **who mind earthly things.**)*

Though they are religious, they follow their own desires and wills, they are earthly minded...

²⁰*For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: ²¹Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*

The reason you are confused, is you keep trying to make sense of the matter, by automatically assuming that they are a Christian based on an apparent profession they made years ago... **When, true faith in Christ is manifested by**... *patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality*...

The "*First Characteristic*" that "*marks*" the just before God...is "*Patient Continuance*..."

This is a truth that is taught throughout the scriptures... **Time will tell**...

(John 8) ³¹Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, **If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;** ³²**And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**



Time will tell... True followers of Jesus...are marked by continuance... Just a note, these men Jesus was speaking too, **did not continue!**

As a pastor, I've learnt over time, not to get terribly excited when someone makes an apparent decision... **Time will tell**... No, what thrills my heart, is in some time later down the road, you find that person still there...growing in their longing for Jesus, seeking to honor him with their life! Lives radically changed by the gospel of God! I could go around this room tonight, giving testimony of those who have been...

Throughout the “*gospels*” Jesus made a familiar statement...

“They that endure to the end shall be saved...”

A statement that has been taken out of context... Many denominations today, some close to us teach a works based salvation, citing this scripture, no doubt. But listen...

★ Jesus wasn't saying... *That those who were “able to stay with it” would receive salvation... but rather, those who “Stay with it” manifest they have salvation!*

“*Patient Continuance*” is the evidence of regeneration! It's the fruit of a changed life, eternal life!

An unregenerate man will manifest it by not continuing...not enduring to the end. Man left to his own works cannot “*Stay with it...*”

The reason I can say that with such assuredly is that God does the saving, God does the keep, God is the eternal! He is able... To justify someone living in disobedience would not be smearing their name...but God's! It would make God look like a fool!

(Mt 13) The Parable of the Sower... Jesus told his disciples of 4 kinds of hearers...

- 1) Those who would not listen...
- 2) Those who seem to believe, but when tried (Sun) fell away...
- 3) Those who seem to believe, who wanted to believe, but was torn between the two...
- 4) Then, the one whose heart is repentant...and receives the word and bears fruit...

Continuance is a “*Mark*” of those who “*live by faith...*”

The “*First Characteristic*” that “*marks*” the just before God... is “*Patient Continuance...*”

Paul gives us three more distinguishing “*characteristics...*” which we will look at next time, Lord willing.

A “*Second Characteristic*” is a “*Life*” spent seeking...“*Glory...*”

A “*Third Characteristic*” is a “*Life*” spent seeking...“*Honor...*”

A “*Fourth Characteristic*” is a “*Life*” spent seeking...“*Immortality...*”

★ All four of which are not individual characteristics, that are to be strived for individually...
But rather are characteristics **of one thing**... **Faith...**

Which speak of a heavenward heart! One who possess “*genuine faith*” is marked as one who lives for the eternal. Not the earthly, not the temporary, etc...but the eternal. Someone whose life is marked by these characteristics, can rest assured that they are just before God! Their hearts have been turned from this old world, and they have assurance of a home in heaven.

But not the man who is earthly, not the man whose life is the here and now, the man whose life is lived out for his things, his ways... Regardless of how religious he is, despite his taking part in religious activity, he is condemned to suffer the wrath of God!

Eternal life, belongs to those who...

...by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality...

I'll close by Quoting John MacArthur... If these fruits, these deeds are not visible in a persons life, I submit to you there is no genuine salvation. If this text says anything, it says that... And if it doesn't say that, then it doesn't say anything.