

Justified by faith Judged by works



Characteristics of Christian ethics

1. **INDIVIDUALISTIC** - The image of God indwells individuals not political or social systems.
2. **RESPONSIVE** - It is a worshipful expression of gratitude to the grace of God in Christ.
3. **INSIDE OUT** - It calls for a change of mind and heart that transforms the outer life.

4. **JUDGMENT** - It embraces a linear view of history with a coming day of moral judgment for all humanity.

The final judgment is consistently based on **WORKS** (not **FAITH**) in the Bible.

2 Corinthians 5:10

“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.”

I know of no Scripture that teaches that we will be judged on the basis of our faith.

Romans 2

“**6 who will render to each person according to his deeds:** ⁷ to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life, ⁸ but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.”

“¹³ for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but **the doers of the Law will be justified.**”

God does not grade on the curve.

Its not what you know or intend but what you actually do.



Tom Schreiner
(Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)

“Paul clearly argues that good works are necessary for eternal life.”



Tom Schreiner
(Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)

“There is no salvation apart from obedience or good works. Indeed, Paul emphasized that believers must accomplish their own salvation.”

(Phil.2:12-13)

**But there is a big problem
- no one is righteous.**

Romans 3:23

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

**The standard for the final judgment
is the perfect glory of God.**

**Three possible sources of hope
at the final judgment:**

1. **Dismissal** - Remove the standard of holiness so that there is no offense.
• A loving God would never condemn anyone.
2. **Empowerment** - Enable believers to meet the standard by the power of the Holy Spirit.
• The Holy Spirit empowers true believers to fulfill the Law.
3. **Redemption** - Fulfill the requirements FOR the believers (outside their personal behavior).
• Jesus righteousness is imputed to the believer.

Romans 3

“²⁶ for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and **the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**”

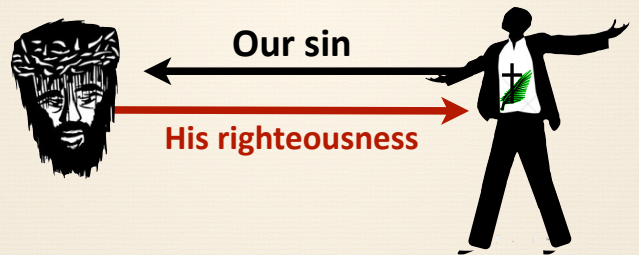
“²⁸ For we maintain that **a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.**”

Romans 4:5

“But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him **who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,**”

2 Corinthians 5:21

“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”



How are we to harmonize the passages?

1. *This is a paradox that cannot be harmonized.*
2. *True faith will produce the good works required.*

Romans 8:3-4

“He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that **the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”



Tom Schreiner
(Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)

“obedience . . . stems from the new covenant work of the Holy Spirit, . . . This Spirit-wrought obedience results in eternal life.”

Ephesians 2:8-10

Faith

“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, that no one should boast.”

Fruit

“for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for (by?)** good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we **should (must, will?)** walk in them.”

Is the fruit a part of saving faith?



Tom Schreiner
(Southern Baptist Theological Seminary)

“Works can’t gain salvation and yet they are necessary for salvation.”

How are we to harmonize the passages?

1. This is a paradox that cannot be harmonized.
2. True faith will produce the good works required.

3. Judgment of believers does not refer to the eternal state.

How are the judgment passages to be applied to believers?

- Some of them (Rom.2) are a part of a hypothetical argument.
- Some of them (Rom.14) refer to rewards in heaven.
- Some of them (Gal.5) refer to temporal not eternal life.

1. Believers will not face judgment or condemnation but have already passed into life!

John 5:24

“truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and **does not come into judgment**, but has passed out of death into life.”

Romans 8:1

“Therefore there is now **no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**”

2. Our hope is not in the Law or the Holy Spirit but in the Cross & Resurrection of Christ!

Hebrews 7:18-19

“For, on the one hand, there is a setting aside of a former commandment because of its weakness and uselessness (for the Law made nothing perfect), and on the other hand there is a bringing in of **a better hope**, through which we draw near to God.”

Our better hope is in Jesus’ life and death FOR us not in the Law fulfilled THROUGH us by the Holy Spirit.



3. There is no double jeopardy, once the penalty has been paid.

1 John 2:2

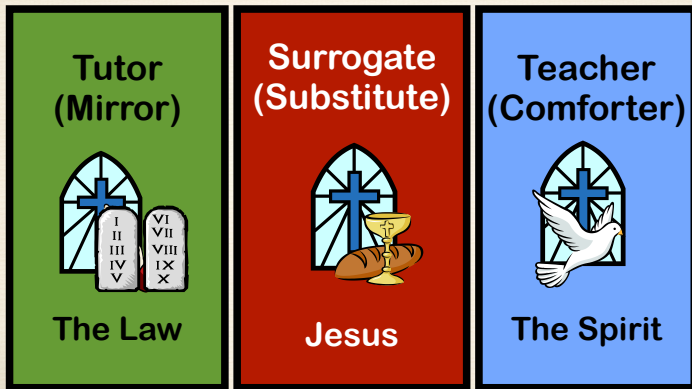
“and He Himself is **the propitiation for our sins**; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”

Hebrews 10

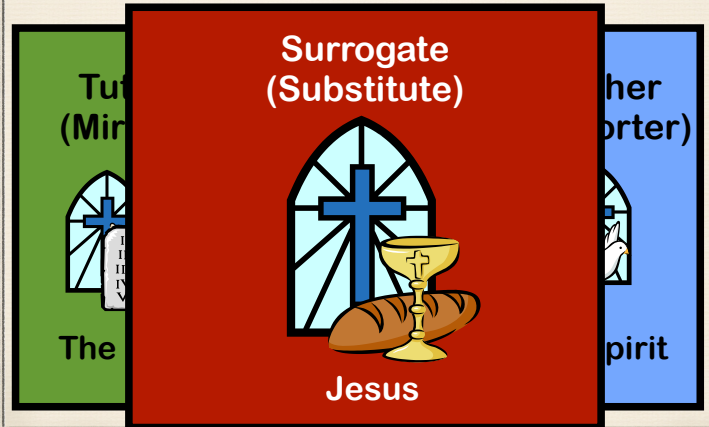
“¹⁴ For by one offering He has **perfected for all time** those who are sanctified. . . ¹⁸ Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.”



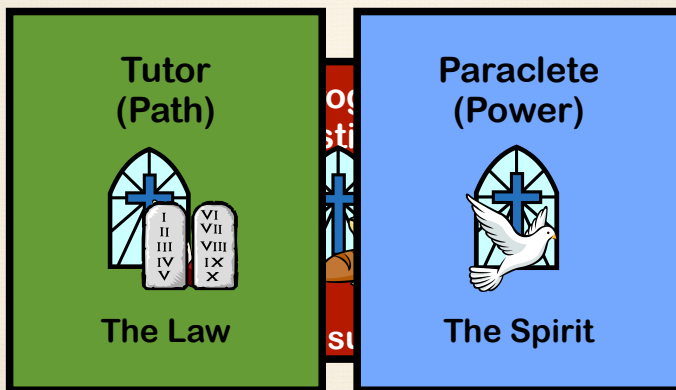
4. Don't confuse the ministries of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.



5. Don't marginalize the role of the Cross.



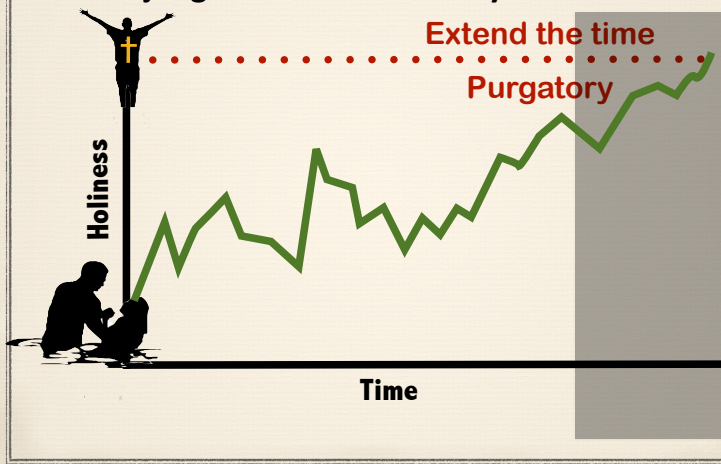
6. Don't make the Spirit and the Law the basis of the Gospel hope.



Two types of righteousness



The Roman Catholic solution to the judgment of believers by works



The Protestant solution to the judgment of believers by works



Questions for those who believe the final judgment of Christian's works determine their eternal destiny.

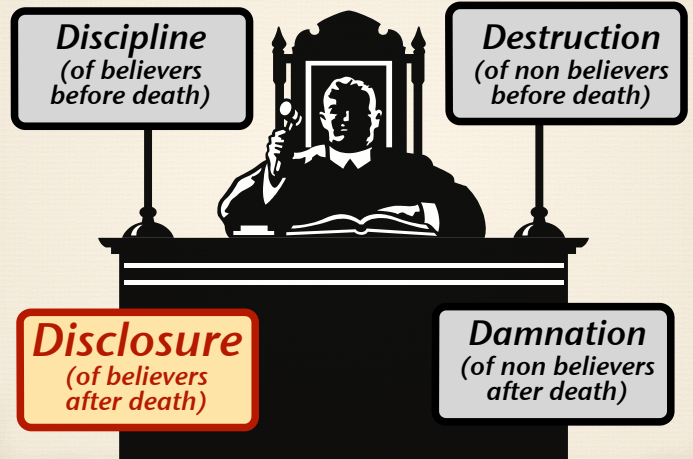
Logical questions

1. Who can stand before God's perfectly holy nature, even in the power of the Spirit?
2. How good must a person be and for how long?
3. In what sense is the Gospel good news if we are on parole?
4. How is this different from Judaism, or Roman Catholicism?
5. How do you avoid double jeopardy?

Theological questions

6. Is our Redeemer Christ or the Holy Spirit?
7. In what sense did Christ fulfill the Law and we die to the Law?
8. How do we explain Paul's teaching of faith apart from works, and grace apart from personal merit?

Four Divine Judgments



1 Corinthians 4:5

"Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and **disclose the motives of men's hearts**; and then each man's praise will come to him from God."

Disclosure of what was hidden is the final judgment for believers.

Revelation 21:4

"and **He will wipe away every tear from their eyes**; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

In the end there will be tears but they will be wiped away.

Revelation 20

John's version of the Final Judgement

"¹¹ And I saw a **great white throne**, . . . ¹² 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. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead, which were in it; and death and Hades delivered up the dead, which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴ And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And **whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**"

General Judgment

of every person

All those "in Christ" whose names are in the Book of Life



Clothed with the righteousness of Christ

No condemnation

All those on their own judged from the book of works

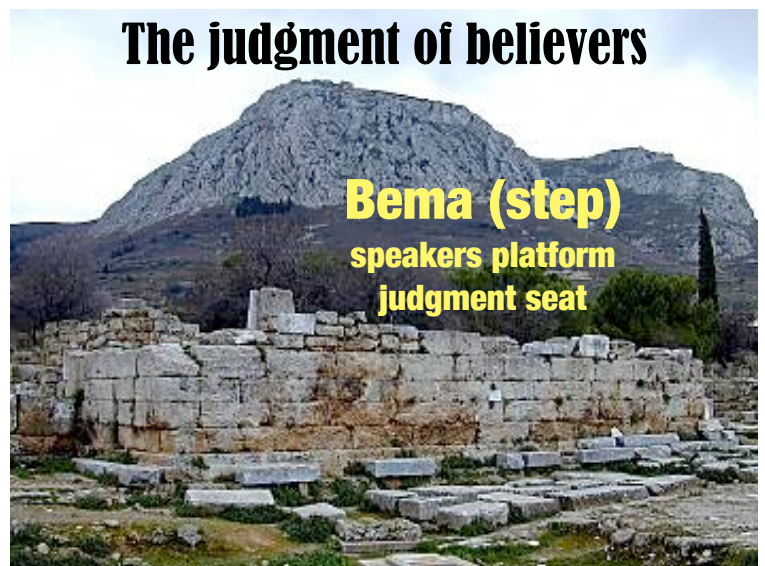


Clothed with their own righteousness

condemnation

The judgment of believers

**Bema (step)
speakers platform
judgment seat**



1 Corinthians 3

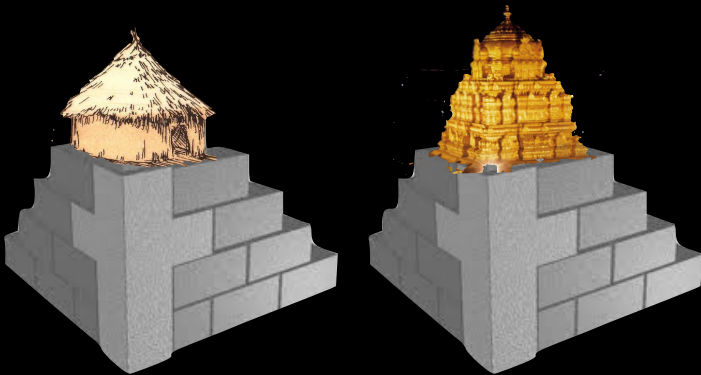
“¹¹ For no man can lay **a foundation** other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man **builds upon the foundation** with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work.”

How we build on our saving faith is the issue.

“¹⁴ If any man’s work which he has built upon it remains, he shall **receive a reward**. ¹⁵ If any man’s work is burned up, he shall **suffer loss**; but **he himself shall be saved**, yet so as through fire.”

Reward and loss (not salvation) is the result of the believer’s judgment.

The images of 1 Cor.3



Bema Judgment of every believer



Bema Judgment

Suffer the loss of what?

The reward of sharing the ruling power of Christ in his kingdom on earth.

Knowing the satisfaction of experiencing the power of Christ’s Spirit in life and ministry.



Fit for Heaven

Christ
FOR us

Christ judged for us
Christians works disclosed

Ethics

Christ
THROUGH us

Christ
IN us

Fit for Earth

