

REMNANT CHURCH SERMON NOTES – ROMANS 2: 6-11
PREACHED ON NOVEMBER 9, 2025 BY REV. B.B. ANUM-HIGHER

6 God “will repay each person according to what they have done.” 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, He will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. 9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; 10 but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 11 For God does not show favoritism (partiality).

➤ **INTRODUCTION**

- Paul continues to explain God’s judgment. We must be guided by the fact that this letter was written to believers in Rome. Every detail of this letter applies to you, it applies to me, and it applies to all Christians.
- He had told us that the unbelievers have no excuse on the Day of Judgment. Last week, he told us that the morally upright Jew, the self-righteous Christians, who, after they have condemned others, do the same things, do not also have an excuse on the Day of Judgment. God hates hypocrisy; He judges everyone equally because He is a just God. Paul wrote:

Therefore, you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. Romans 2:1.

- Paul is not telling us that we cannot judge others. Several passages in Scripture allow us to judge others' behavior, not their heart. God has given believers a discerning spirit to distinguish between what is of God and what is not, enabling us to make sound judgments and decisions. The church must also judge the behavior of her members to apply church discipline. Parents must make judgments of their children's behavior to train them according to Scripture.
- Paul is telling us that as we judge others, we must understand that the same standard will be used to judge us, so we have no excuse when, after we have judged others, we do the same things we condemned them for. In other words, do not be a hypocrite. Do the same things you want others to do, and don't do the same things you ask others not to do.
- Today, Paul continues to speak to the morally upright Jew and the morally upright Christian who, despite their own sins, continue to condemn others for the same sins they commit. We will consider each of the six verses in our text.

➤ **VERSE 6**

6 God “will repay each person according to what they have done.”

- This verse applies to all humanity – both believers and unbelievers- and Paul tells us that God will assess our lives, including the lives of every human being, based on what each one of us has done. The judgment will be based on works. The judgment will be upon all men. It will be universal and individual.

✓ **Why judgment by works?**

- Paul says God will judge us based on what we have done, which includes what we have used our mouths, eyes, ears, hands, feet, minds, and hearts to do.
- Is this a new doctrine from Apostle Paul?
- Judgment by works is not a new doctrine. It is taught throughout Scripture.
- In 2 Corinthians 5:10, Paul taught the same doctrine when he wrote:

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

- John, the apostle, had a vision of this doctrine in Revelation 19.

12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.

- Jesus Christ taught the doctrine of judgment by works during His earthly ministry.

27 For the Son of Man is going to come in His Father's glory with His angels, and then He will reward each person according to what they have done. Matthew 16:27.

✓ **Justification by faith alone, Judgment by works.**

- But is this not confusing because Paul had said in Ephesians 2:8-9 that our works do not save us? All the good things you do cannot justify you in God's sight.

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9.

- If our works do not save us, why then will we stand before God and be judged based on how we lived our lives?
- To explain this objection, I would like us to go back to the reason why the good works of the unbeliever cannot save them. I also want to show that a mere belief or profession does not save anyone apart from regeneration and good works. How do you know if your faith is genuine? Jesus, Paul, James, and John all teach that faith without works is dead and cannot save. Works show if faith is genuine. So while our works can't save us, our works can condemn us.

✓ Depravity of Mankind

- When Adam sinned, both parts of mankind were affected by sin - the material body and the immaterial soul (or spirit). Sin affected the heart, the mind, the will, and the spirit. Sin affected the dimension through which we relate to God, worship God, and serve God.
- Our physical body ages, gets sick, and eventually dies. The heart and mind desire to sin and oppose God. **Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"**
- The Hebrew word translated "desperately wicked" has the idea of a terminal, incurable illness. This is therefore the condition of every unbeliever – they are affected by sin in every part of their being. His body is sinful and dying, his heart and mind desire to sin, and his spirit is dead. This concept is known as total depravity among theologians.
- The unbeliever is totally depraved. Total depravity does not mean that every person is as bad as they possibly can be, but rather that every person is completely consumed by sin, and there is no hope of their turning it around and improving on their own. You cannot set aside your sin by any good works. In fact, the very good works the unbeliever does are seen in the eyes of God as filthy rags. Isaiah 64:6.

✓ Regeneration

- How does God see the unbeliever? In the sight of God, every unbeliever is dead spiritually. **And you were dead in the trespasses and sins. Ephesians 2:1.** Fallen in Adam, all people are born dead in sins and trespasses and are incapable of spiritual renewal. Because of mankind's desperate situation, there must be a power outside of them to bring them alive spiritually. Spiritually dead men and women are utterly dependent on God to give them spiritual life sovereignly.
- The Holy Spirit is the agent of regeneration since He convicts people of their sinful condition, of the wrath to come, and of their need for Christ. The Holy Spirit's power of regeneration can only be obtained from the gospel, as Paul told us in our earlier studies: **'For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.'** (Romans 1:16).
- So, the first experience we receive as believers is the resurrection of our dead souls, the creation in us of a new heart, and the start of the process of renewing our minds. This is regeneration or new birth. In the new birth, the Spirit implants in the souls of God's people new wills, affections, and desires. Our aging, diseased, and dead physical bodies will be glorified in the future when Christ returns. This is all the work of God. We contribute nothing to this experience.
- However, just as a new child grows by eating and drinking, following instructions from parents, the new birth also requires growth. The believer grows by loving

the Word of God, devoting themselves to God's purposes, and obeying God. The evidence of the new birth and growth is the good works believers produce. Regeneration gives us the spirit of obedience to God.

- Good works, therefore, do not save, but they are the product of our salvation. Good work is a demonstration of our salvation. **For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10.** It is impossible to be a believer and not have the desire and actually practice good works. God, out of love, restrains the believer from evil so they can produce good works. It is a gift from God to restrain the believer from sinning.
- In fact, before we are saved, our works are done in the flesh and cannot please God; even our most righteous deeds fall far short of God's glory. God's goal in saving us was not only to rescue us from hell, but also to reflect His character and goodness to the world. God delights in seeing us become more like His Son (Romans 8:29).
- Good works do not produce salvation. Good works are the product of salvation. So, although our good works cannot save us, when we are saved, we will produce good works. In other words, the believer's works don't save him, but his works demonstrate that he is saved.
- The believer might, out of ignorance, bad company, or other circumstances, occasionally fall into sin, but habitual sinning is a sign of a false conversion. The believer will continue to fight the good fight of faith. It is biblically inconsistent to say that someone has been saved but has not changed their life. Many people go through the outward motions of giving their lives to Christ, but no lifestyle change follows. That is not genuine salvation, that is not true repentance, but is a "dead" faith (James 2:26).

➤ VERSES 7 AND 8

7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, He will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

- Paul then tells us that we act the way we do because of our motives. He grouped humanity into two: the righteous and the unrighteous. He also mentioned two destinies for each group: eternal life for the righteous and wrath (tribulation) and anger (anguish) for the unrighteous.

First Group – The Righteous.

- The righteous seek to glorify and honor God and look forward to heaven. They desire to know God and spend eternity with Him. Although they stumble sometimes, they persist in their pursuit of God. They do not set aside but keep

God's commandments and live righteously. They will enjoy eternal life with God, a gift from God to the righteous.

Second Group – The Unrighteous.

- The unrighteous are occupied by themselves, reject the truth by arguing with His Word and continue to sin. They do not obey the truth but obey unrighteousness and live according to the lust of the flesh and the world. They are occupied with worldly pursuits. They will suffer eternal tribulation and anguish from God as the consequence of their deeds. Tribulation means trouble, affliction, and pressure. It includes being beaten and bruised. Anguish means intense suffering in spirit. The existence of tribulation and anguish is everlasting. Hell is described in Scripture as a place of weeping and gnashing of teeth, which means an endless and eternal remorse.
- The work we do with our short lives on earth is determined by the motive we have. If our motive is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever, we will produce good fruits of obedience. If we look forward to having a glorified, immortal body and dwell with God and other believers eternally, we will crucify the flesh with its passions and desires (Galatians 5:24).
- If our motive is to seek our selfish interests and even use the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our selfish interests, we will live a certain way and eventually suffer the wrath of God. If our motive is to reject the truth about God and use the grace, goodness, and kindness of God as a license to continue to live in sin, then we will call on the rocks and mountains to fall on us on the Day of Judgment as a favorable option than to suffer the wrath of God. Revelation 6:16.
- The true believer cannot remain unchanged; they cannot continue to seek their interests but rather seek the glory of God. What is the chief end of man, according to The Westminster Shorter Catechism? Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. This is not only for our memorization and recitation, but primarily for our daily living. The believer will glorify God daily.
- A man's motives, therefore, influence his actions. Sin is therefore a decision to live a selfish life, atheism is therefore a decision not to thank and honor God, and the unbeliever has willfully rejected the truth because he wants to live a certain way.
- If you are a believer, the fundamental question you should ask yourself is What are the motives for everything I do? Why do I go to church? Why do I do evangelism? As a preacher, I must ask myself, why do I preach to others? If my and your responses to these questions are that we do what we do for God's glory, to honor Him, and to prepare for eternity, then we are blessed. However, if it's for our selfish interest, then woe unto us.
- It is not only our works that will determine where we spend eternity, but it is also the basis for the rewards believers will receive in heaven. My brothers and sisters

listening to me this morning, how are you living your life in this short and certain earthly life and pilgrimage? Do you have your eyes on the rewards in heaven?

➤ **VERSE 9 AND 10**

7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, He will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. 9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; 10 but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

- There are consequences for how every human being lives their life on earth. We might not value what we do with our lives. We might not pay attention to what we say with our mouths, see with our eyes, listen with our ears, or touch with our hands, but God does, and He pays back our actions with eternal consequences.
- Paul says for the unbeliever, his destiny has already been determined, and it is this: "8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. 9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;
- To both the unbelieving Jews and Gentiles, God has determined that He will pour His full wrath on them on the Day of Judgment. They will experience hell with all of its troubles and distresses eternally.
- For the believer, their eternity is also determined. This is what Paul wrote: 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, He will give eternal life. 10 but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.
- The believers will enjoy eternal glory, honor, and peace with their God in heaven because while on earth, they made it their motive to glorify and honor God by the way they lived. They looked forward to their glorification, to their life in heaven, the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.
- The believer must always ask themselves why they do what they do. Maricel and I are training our children in a certain way because we have eternity in view; we believe that they are not destined to live on this earth forever but are only pilgrims on their way to heaven. We planted this church because we have eternity in view, to bring the gospel to as many people as God has directed our way. We live daily with eternity in view.
- Your choice of career, spouse, church, friends, and so on must be made with eternity in view, because God takes seriously everything we do with our lives on earth. Everything, every association we join, counts.

➤ **VERSE 11**

11 For God does not show favoritism (partiality).

- The Jews had always hoped on their religious privileges to escape God's judgment. Paul tells them and all of us here that God is not partial; He has no favorites in His judgment. He judges without partiality.
- The Jews have forgotten that their own Scriptures teach that when you have special privileges, you equally have special responsibilities. There is a biblical principle that those who know more about God will be held to greater responsibilities and accountability.
- In the prophecy of Prophet Amos, they were told that **"You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins."** Amos 3:2.
- In the same way, God will judge each of us based on the many privileges He has given us. There are places where the gospel is banned. What have we done or doing with all these spiritual privileges? Are you sitting on them, boasting about them, or are they transforming your life to live holy and blameless lives for God?
- To my brothers and sisters in the Reformed faith, we have many biblically sound ministers, creeds, catechisms, and confessions. What do we make out of all these privileges? Do we use them for His glory by our obedience to Him or to pursue selfish interests? To whom much is given, much is expected.

➤ **APPLICATION**

- God has blessed us with friends, family, co-workers, and a community. We are not alone as we live in this world. We meet people during our educational pursuits and have several friends on social media. However, at the time of judgment, it will be an individual affair. Everyone will appear individually before God, regardless of their nationality, family background, or church membership. Each of us will stand before Jesus Christ to give an account of how we lived our lives on earth. Everyone must account for their own life. It is your life that God will assess, and it is mine that He will assess.
- I therefore call on you to conduct a personal examination of your life, to determine whether you have a right relationship with God. Your friends and family cannot establish this relationship with God on your behalf. Your friends and family must account for their own work. If you do not have the right relationship with God, or if you are unsure that you have a saving faith, you still have an opportunity to make things right with God. It will be late someday; there are no second chances after your death or when Jesus Christ returns, but it is not too late now. It is by grace that you are hearing the Lord speak to you today about this matter. For those who will suffer His wrath, they will either reject this message or go through the outward motions of giving their lives to Christ, but no lifestyle change will follow. However, for those who will enjoy heaven and dwell with their Savior eternally, they will repent and believe and show evidence of their conversion by their good works.
- Where do you stand on this matter in your life today? Where do you want to spend eternity? Paul says the judgment will announce two destinies: eternal life

and tribulation and anguish. Are you truly seeking God, or are you living a worldly life with only occasional interest in spiritual things? Several examples in the Bible serve as warnings that God's judgment is certain, and it is wise to obey Jesus and flee to Him for safety.

- At the time of Noah, God announced a worldwide judgment in the form of a flood due to the sins of the world. Noah evangelized to his family and the people for 120 years, urging them to enter the ark with him for safety, but no one believed that God would bring such a judgment upon the nations and didn't take the message seriously, except Noah's sons and their wives. Only eight people obeyed. The rest continued to enjoy the pleasures of the world in sin, and the promised judgment came upon the nations just as God had said, and they all perished except those in the ark.
- We have another example in the Old Testament of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot, Abraham's nephew, lived in Sodom with his unbelieving wife and two daughters who were engaged to local men. Two angels informed Lot about the coming destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah due to sin. Out of mercy, the angels led Lot, his wife, and his two daughters out of the city before God destroyed it (Genesis 19:13). As they fled, the angels warned them, with a direct command, **"Escape for your life! Do not look behind you, and do not stay anywhere in the valley; escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away"** (Genesis 19:17).
- A story that should have ended well for Lot's family took a sad turn. Lot's wife disobeyed the command, and she became a pillar of salt. She didn't get to safety. What makes this story sad is this: Lot's wife probably spent most of her life with a believing husband, but wasn't a true believer. She heard all the messages the angels presented about the impending destruction of the city. She probably joined her husband to warn others to repent, and she also listened to the direct command not to look back but to flee. She, however, showed no interest in the messages, an example of a mere profession of faith.
- Out of mercy, she was been pulled to safety, but at the very moment, she disobeyed and looked back, so she didn't get to the place of safety.
- **Why am I commenting on this story?** When speaking to His disciples about a future day and time of great destruction, Jesus referenced the events that befell Lot's wife and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. **"Remember Lot's wife!" He said. "Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it" (Luke 17:32–33).**
- Jesus tells us to remember Lot's wife as we live our lives on earth. What should we remember about her?
 - a. Even though she was a member of a believing family, had heard the salvation message from the angels, helped share it to others, and received a direct command not to look back, she didn't believe that such a destruction would occur in an important city like Sodom and Gomorrah.

- b. Even though she was a member of a believing family, her heart was in Sodom, and she was unwilling to leave the sinful society. She loved the good things Sodom provided, the companions she enjoyed life with, and the material things at her disposal, so she looked back to them.
- c. Even though she was a member of a believing family, she disobeyed God's direct command **DO NOT LOOK BACK**.

✓ **What does Jesus want us to know from her?**

- We have the privileges of having both the Old and New Testaments that warn us about a coming day when all the nations, and every one of us, will stand before God to be judged for what we have done. The same Scripture tells us about how to escape such a destructive day. It tells us to repent and believe in Jesus Christ, and we will be saved from the wrath to come.
- It tells us to flee from worldly things and set our hearts and minds on Jesus. For those of us in the Reformed faith, we have the catechisms, creeds, and confessions that tell us about the wrath of God, how to escape it, and we have even memorized them. We know from Scripture that whoever calls on the name of Jesus will be saved. We know that we must repent and demonstrate our repentance through our good works. We know that we cannot be true believers when worldliness is at the center of our lives and continue to sin habitually.
- Like Lot's wife, when we continue to disobey these direct commands of God and continue to live as the worldly people do, God's wrath will come upon us on the Day of Judgment, no matter the number of times we attended church, no matter our profession of faith, baptism, participation in the Lord's Supper, and Christian service. We will spend eternity in hell and regret our actions eternally.
- When we look away from Jesus or add Jesus to our worldly lifestyles by joining a church because it is the right thing to do, we are in the same boat as Lot's wife. Her association with Lot, which was a privilege, did not guarantee her salvation because she showed no signs of repentance or obedience to God's direct command to flee from worldliness. She did not believe the Word of God.
- Do you have believing friends and families who are all fleeing from the wrath of God to come? Do you have people in your life who have repented, believed, and committed their lives to Christ, but you are still pursuing worldly things, living for this world, and do not have your mind on glorifying God, honoring God, and seeking immortality? Please be careful. Remember Lot's wife.
- Those with greater privileges of having the gospel will suffer the wrath of God in abundance if they continue to live in disobedience. In the same way, those who have greater spiritual privileges, having received the gospel, repented, and believed in Jesus Christ, will receive an abundance of blessings on the Day of Judgment.
- **"Remember Lot's wife!" Jesus said. "Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it"**