



Daily Verse and Comment

[John 5:28-29](#)

(28) "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice (29) and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

[Romans 14:10-12](#)

(10) You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

(11) It is written:

" 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord,
'every knee will bow before me;

every tongue will confess to God.' " (12) So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

[2 Corinthians 5:10](#)

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

[Revelation 20:13](#)

(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 he had done.

New International Version

Teachers who say that works are unimportant are spreading lies—by confusing the issues, by blunting the incentive to keep the commandments of [God](#) and to make the right kind of choices, by making people think that they do not have to do any works. Understand, however, that works are not required to save us but to ensure that we are changed!

What does God want to see when we come before the judgment bar, as we are now during our Christian lives? He wants to see evidence to prove that we are indeed His children. His judgment is based upon what we have done; the Bible says repeatedly that judgment is according to our works.

I am not qualifying here the quantity or the quality of our works. God is so [merciful](#)! Paul tells us in [I Corinthians 3:15](#) that, even though our works are burned up, we ourselves will be saved. Even though the works are of poor quality, at least we have worked! We did not just sit there, dead in the water. We apparently pleased God enough to show that we wanted to be in His Kingdom.

That judgment is in His hands. But we should recognize that He does *require* works. The works are not for *justification* but for *sanctification*. The works aid in the transformation of our character to the [image of God](#). The works aid in our growing in the grace and knowledge of [Jesus Christ](#). The works help to produce change. It is a cooperative effort that we do with God.

And I can guarantee you that, if a person does not make the efforts to change, he would be totally unhappy in the [Kingdom of God](#). He would be like a fish out of water, because everybody in that Kingdom is going to be *holy*. Everybody in that Kingdom is going to do—they are going to live holy lives. (An unholy person wouldn't fit, and so he won't be there.)

[Satan](#) is trying to destroy God's purpose by subtly confusing *the necessity of good works*, and therefore stopping the process of sanctification through a perverted teaching on grace, law, and covenants. But remember this: [Hebrews 12:14](#) tells us that without holiness—a [holiness](#) that we have to strive for—"no man shall see the Lord."

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Covenants, Grace, and Law \(Part Nine\)](#)



Related Topics:

[Character](#)

[Good Works](#)

[Good Works, Necessity of](#)

[Growing in Grace and Knowledge](#)

[Holiness](#)

[Holy](#)

[Judgment According to Works](#)

[Justification](#)

[Justification by Works](#)

[Sanctification](#)

[Sanctification as Growth](#)

[Works](#)

[Works as Evidence of Growth](#)

[Works, Christ's Emphasis Upon](#)

[Works, Judgment According to](#)

[Works, The Necessity of Good](#)