

Preparing to Give an Account Romans 14:12

Introduction:

Our Emphasis on Mission work began this morning.

While considering what has been planned for today and the next two Sundays, I was pondering what Alexander, Paul, and Victor have been preparing for us.

They have most likely been reviewing their work over the last year or so.

They have taken their ups and downs, combined them into a report, and prepared an update to give us an account of their work.

As any good missionary will do, they have reported things throughout the year to our elders and our deacon of missions.

The thought of our missionaries giving us a report of their work brought to mind the passage of Romans 14:12, which declares, "So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God."

Every believer will be judged by the Savior on the last day.

Because of the death and resurrection of Christ, he is Lord both of the dead and the living.

Since the Lord will give the judgment that counts, let us not compound our problems by judging our brother here about matters of diet or days, which Paul wrote about in Romans 14:1-8.

The Lord's judgment on the last day will see every knee bow, hear every tongue give praise to God, and "each one of us will give an account of himself to God."

In preparation for the day of judgment, what do we need to know?

I. We are responsible for our own sins.

While preparing to give an account to God, we must learn that we are responsible for our own sins.

In Ezekiel 18, the prophet quotes a popular proverb of his time.

The interpretation of the proverb was that Israel was being punished for the sins of their fathers.

Ezekiel refutes this false teaching by pointing out that God punishes only the individual for his or her sin.

Notice verse 20, "The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself."

The unrighteous will make assumptions about the righteous and say that the righteous are not doing right (v. 25).

Ezekiel explained the righteous man will surely live (vv. 5-9).

The righteous man's son will surely die and take full blame if he is unrighteous (vv. 10-13).

The righteous son of an unrighteous man will not die because of his father's sins (vv. 14-19).

If a righteous man becomes unrighteous, he will die (vv. 24 and 26).

If an unrighteous man becomes righteous, he will live (vv. 21-23, 27, and 28).

In light of all this, God urges the people to repent so that they will not be punished for their unrighteous ways (vv. 30-32); “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, each according to his conduct,” declares the Lord God. ‘Repent and turn away from all your transgressions, so that iniquity may not become a stumbling block to you. Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,’ declares the Lord God. ‘Therefore, repent and live.’”

Death is the result of sin.

Romans 3:23 makes it known that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Sin entered the world because one man sinned but all sin; the same also for death, “death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Romans 5:12).

“The wages of sin is death.” Everyone who sins deserves death, “but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

We are not to use our body as tools of wickedness so that God’s grace will increase; we can choose only one master, sin which leads to death or obedience to God which will receive God’s approval.

We are responsible for our own sins and our own obedience.

Missionaries work to inform people of their responsibility for their own sins.

II. The law heightens our responsibility for sin.

God’s law was given so that all people could see how sinful they are (Romans 5:20).

The law shows us how sinful we are and how we are sinners.

We are sinners because of our actions, words, and thoughts.

Matthew 15:18 and 19 confirm, “the things that proceed out of the mouth (the sin of words) come from the heart, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts (the sin of thoughts), murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders (the sin of actions).”

The law of God, therefore, brings judgment.

Solomon concluded, in Ecclesiastes 12:13 and 14, that every person is to “fear (respect or reverence) God and keep (obey) his commandments” because “God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether...good or evil.”

Jesus said, “The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned” (Matthew 12:35-37).

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed (paid back) for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad,” 2 Corinthians 5:10 notifies.

Ignorance does not remove responsibility.

Anyone who “does any of the things which the LORD has commanded not to be done, though he was unaware, still he is guilty and shall bear his punishment” (Leviticus 5:17).

Faithlessness will result in severe rebuke and punishment at the Lord’s return (Luke 12:45-48).

Even the people who killed Jesus “acted in ignorance, (Acts 3:17) [even though they fulfilled] the thing which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets.”

Peter instructed them, in Acts 3:18 and 19, to “repent and return, so that [their] sins [could] be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing [could] come from the presence or face of the Lord (being with them).”

The law makes us aware of sin and our responsibility for our sin.

Missionaries work to teach people the will of God and their responsibility for sin.

III. We are responsible for repenting, believing, and be baptized.

God desires to save people who do two things: One, they seek after him. Two, they turn from idolatry to him (Acts 17:30 and 31).

Someday, God will judge the world through Jesus Christ, whom he raised from the dead.

Jesus came preaching “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17), “repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15), and “that repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem” (Luke 24:46 and 47).

Each person is responsible for repenting of his/her sins.

The life and ministry of Jesus point people to repentance.

Jesus said, “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18).

Jesus denounced three Galilean cities (Matthew 11) because he did miracles among them, but they rejected him, thus they will be judged on the day of judgment (vv. 22 and 24).

The people of Nineveh “repented at the preaching of Jonah,” and “the Queen of the South...came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon,” yet something greater than Solomon was with the scribes and the Pharisees (Matthew 12:38-42).

Jesus taught, “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day” (John 12:48).

Each person is responsible for believing Jesus and his teachings.

Each person is responsible for being baptized.

Peter said, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:38).

Jesus said, “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned” (Mark 16:16).

We are responsible for repenting of sin, believing Jesus is the Son of God who can take away sin and that he will judge every person by his word on the last day.

Missionaries preach and teach that people must repent, believe, and be baptized as they prepare to give an account to God.

Application:

If you were called upon today to give an account of your mission work, what would be the report?

Would the report include benevolent work?

Would the information contain any evangelistic work?

Would the presentation have any edification for the church?

Every Christian is a missionary sent with the authority of Jesus Christ, into all the world, to make disciples and baptize them.

You see, just as “each one of us will give an account of himself to God” our missionary activities will be a part of the account.

Have you taken responsibility for your own sins?

Do you recognize how sinful the law reveals each one of us to be?

Have you repented of your sins, believed in Jesus as the only begotten Son of God, and been baptized for the forgiveness of sins?

Conclusion:

We are all preparing to give an account of ourselves to God.

This accounting can be given with joy or with grief; joy if our sins are forgiven; with grief if we must account for our sins; with joy if we have done the Lord’s work; with grief if we have not obeyed the Lord’s commissioning.

Take responsibility for your own sins and repent then be baptized for the forgiveness of sins.

If you have not prepared correctly to give an account, or your report does not show you approved of God, then seek forgiveness before you must give an account to God.