

## The Three Eternal Destinies #161 *The Good, the Bad, and the Holy, Part 2*

### The Righteous Stand Out

Habakkuk deals with the nations as Hab 1:5 says, “Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days – you would not believe if you were told.”

The nations of this world are given to all kinds of unjustness and filthiness as Hab 2:6-20 speaks of. A glorious destiny awaits those who submit to doing the good they knew and resisting the evil they knew not to do (Rom 2:7). Gen 3:22 – As Hab 2:4 says, speaking of those like the centurion in Mt 8, who was a just man who lived by his faithfulness to the everlasting covenant. He was living in Israel, in the devastation foretold to come upon the nation in Dt 28 for her disobedience. Therefore the witness of the religious nuts of his day did not condemn him. He lived by a higher law than the “perverted law” of Moses and the Jews. Hab 2:4 — Habakkuk saw that the Jews of his day were perverting the justice which God put into the Law; they were not the upright, but the proud and perverted ones of that generation (Acts 2:38-41). In the midst of all the degeneracy that the nations give themselves to, the righteous stand out as those who will not take the mark of the beast in Rev 17:8. Mt 25:34 – And all those of the nations whose names were found in the Book of Life in Rev 20:15 down through history will be granted the second, unending life. They were those who did not “give way” to the greed, power, idolatry, and immorality of their generations. They did not treat others in an inhuman fashion since they retained their humanity which was created in God’s image and likeness, at least to a fallen degree and not to a depraved degree, as Rom 1:28 speaks of.

The original starting point in the Garden was that man was to desire the fruit of the Tree of Life instead of desiring eternal life by (works) or deeds, as Rev 20:12 says. (Rom 2:6-7). But the wrath and indignation of Rom 2:8 is for those who do not do the good, but the evil they knew (Gen 3:22; Rom 2:9-10).

Since man chose to do eat of the forbidden fruit, which begat the fall and begat the new start – they now had to produce themselves, and from themselves, by their deeds, *the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil*. They now had to do the good and not do the evil, both of which they now knew as Gen 3:22 says (and Rom 2:14-15 supports). Therefore, they achieve by their deeds the judgment that would be rendered according to their deeds of doing the good. Otherwise, the judgment would be rendered that they were not worthy of their names remaining in the Book of Life. Rom 2:12-16 and Rev 20:12-15 are the basis of determining whether one is worthy of a second death (Rev 21:8) or a second life (Rev 20:15). Everyone who has ever lived on earth from Adam and Eve receives his spirit from God, which makes a person in the image of God. God does not give man a perverted spirit – man’s soul is still in God’s image and likeness.

But what makes a man’s spirit and soul, which has been entrusted to a man, become perverted and depraved? (1 Jn 5:19). Eph 2:1-3 – What makes someone become a son of disobedience? Eph 2 does not say that we were born sons of disobedience. It says we *became* that way after we were born into Satan’s world.

Eph 2:1 says that when we were immersed, we were born again into Col 1:13, transferred out of Satan’s kingdom and into the Body of Messiah. We are now in His protection (Jn 17:11) and under His authority. Just before this new birth we were dead due to our sins “in which we once lived” because we conformed to this world and followed Satan, its ruler who reigns in the space between heaven and earth and works in the ones who give themselves to him. We gave ourselves to him – we went to college and university, and for what motivation? Did it have anything to do with Gen 3:16-19? Did it go against the knowledge we were endowed with *by nature*? (Rom 2:14-15 and Gen 3:22).

Were we sons of disobedience *by nature* or natural design or by spiritual design? As Eph 2:3 says, we were all going to the judgment in Rev 20:12-15 and Heb 9:27 and Rom 2:15-16, but the entire world had not given themselves over, or maybe we had. Many of us had not only given ourselves over to greed and the urges of our own desires by attending the university of our choice, but we also gave ourselves over to the church of our choice. We followed the prince of the power of the air. We were deceived even as Eve was, and knowing good from evil we had no excuse (Rom 2:1-3).

Here in Rom 2:1-3 is the religious people of this world – Jews and Christians more than others are. They have

the Word of God called Bibles or Torah. Christians are condemned twice as much as the Jews since they have both Old and New testaments. Christians who wait for God's judgment upon the world are convinced that they will not be condemned along with it since they are "saved" or have "true religion." Paul here was instructing the Christians of today, as the Jews of his day, and even as the Roman church, that the greater their religious knowledge, the more arguments they have to justify their conformity to the world. Eph 2:1-3 tells us how we were, if it weren't for 1 Cor 6:9. We are *born again* from our self-centered existence into a new life (2 Cor 5:15,17).

1 Cor 6:9-11 — Make no mistake about it: verse 11 leaves no room for the truly born-again disciple to be as Rom 2:1-5 (Tit 2:11-14). Tit 3:5-7 – Good works were done by some of us before we were saved, or before we were given rebirth in (baptism) immersion. This is our renewing by the Holy Spirit being poured into our hearts – His love into our hearts (Rom 5:5). So Titus 3:8 – We must now excel in good works, etc., which we were saved to do (Eph 2:10; Rev 19:8), as Titus 2:14 says, being zealous for these good works which we were saved to carry out, the ones only we can do. They were prepared for us in Messiah, before the earth was created. We are to be devoted to them (Eph 4:12).