

The Three Eternal Destinies #202

The Doer of the Law will be Justified

Connecting Rom 2:16 with Rom 2:13, the doer of the Law of Conscience will be justified in the day when the secrets of his heart are judged (Rev 20:12).

Rom 1:18 - 2:16 sheds light on the fact that there are Three Eternal Destinies of Man, not just two. The eternal destiny of those who have never heard the gospel is obvious — that God, being good, will judge such people as to their deeds, which determine their eternal destiny. Those without the Law of Moses God will judge according to Gen 3:22, and those under the Law God will judge according to the Law — those who knew the Law of Moses, and those who were Christians, and those who heard the Christian gospel and rejected it. This applies to those under the Law and those who disobey the Law — both the natural law and the Law of Moses.

What will become of all the people of the world who tried to live by their conscience (by natural law) as Rom 2:12-16 teaches, who never even heard of salvation from sin, or receiving eternal life as a gift? They only knew instinctively to anticipate the judgment of Rom 2:6-7, according to their works or deeds, as Rev 20:12-15 and Rom 2:16 describe, which will determine their eternal destiny.

Rom 2:10 — Glory, honor, and peace is contrasted to Rom 2:8-9. Paul says that eternal life will be given to those who by patient endurance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality. This eternal life is different from the eternal life which is bestowed upon a believer in Messiah. By faith, not of works, but of mercy He saved us (Tit 3:5; Eph 2:8-9). We were saved *for* good works, not *by* good works which we have done. This separates the Holy from the Righteous in Rev 22:11.

There is a reward for those of the nations in Rev 21:24 and 22:2,11,12 who keep the everlasting covenant of Isa 24:5, choosing the good in Gen 3:22 by doing the works of Gen 3:16-19 and 9:1-7 — doing what they knew was good, and not doing what they

knew to be evil. The ground of judgment in Rom 2:6-10 is what they have *done*, in contrast to the Holy who receive forgiveness *before* the first death (Heb 9:27; Gen 2:17).

Those who *work* are not saved from the *first* death, but they are saved from the *second* death sentence, because the first death was their atonement for the sins which could be forgiven, as correlated to the category of the Holy in Num 15:31 or Heb 10:26, Heb 6:6, etc. In Rom 2:12-16 the judgment for the nations is like the judgment for Israel, and the judgment for the Edah, as all are correlated to each other. Works for the nations make them worthy to enter the eternal age (Mt 25:34), while works for the Edah make them worthy to enter the kingdom age. Rev 20:12-15 for the nations corresponds to 2 Cor 5:10 for the Edah.

The *doer* of the Law will be pronounced righteous, whether the Law of Moses or the Law of the Nations.