

Divine Incentives

Rom. 2:1-11

Introduction:

- A. Why do people wilfully persist in sin?
 - 1. Why do they not obey gospel after learning what Bible teaches? (cf. Mk. 16:15,16; Acts 2:38).
 - 2. Why do they wilfully neglect assembly and worship?
 - 3. Why do they persist in things they know the Bible does not authorize or condone?
 - 4. Why do they live a daily life that they know to be sinful?
- B. The modern answer must be rooted in psychology or sociology.
 - 1. Spend much time in analyzing a persons psychic.
 - 2. Try to find some mysterious root cause for misbehavior.
- C. I suggest that the incentive to sin is stronger than the incentive not to sin!
 - 1. The immediate pleasure and temporal advantage is stronger than what Bible teaches.
 - 2. The lack of faith in the divine incentives is evident.
- D. Our text refers to three divine incentives for us to do right -- yet not many really believe them.

Discussion:

I. The Judgement Of God. (v. 2,3).

- A. Do we really believe that we could face judgement at any time?
 - 1. Death could bring us into judgment at any moment. (Heb. 9:27; Jas. 4:13-17).
 - 2. Jesus could return in judgment at any moment. (2 Pet. 3:1-15).
- B. Do we bank on his delaying judgment until we are ready? (Matt. 24:24-25:13)
 - 1. Would one wilfully put off obedience, if he really thought judgment could be today?
 - 2. Would one wilfully engage in sin, if really thought judgement could come while engaged?
 - 3. Would one wilfully neglect duty, if thought judgment could be immediate?

II. The Goodness of God. (v. 4, 7).

- A. Do we really believe His past goodness?
 - 1. His sacrifice for us. (Rom. 5:6-8).
 - 2. His longsuffering of us.
- B. Do we really believe His promised goodness?
 - 1. He promises to reward of those who seek him. (Heb. 11:6).
 - 2. He promises heaven to the faithful. (Rev. 2:10; 21:22-22:5)

III. The Wrath Of God. (v. 5, 8,9; 1:18).

- A. Do we really believe in hell. (Mark 9:42-48; Rev. 14:10-11; 21:8).
- B. Do we really believe in hell for those who obey not gospel. (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
- C. Do we really believe in hell for those who persist in sin. (Heb. 10:26-29).
 - 1. If so, would we not avoid sin?
 - 2. If so, would we not live better?
 - 3. If so, would we not be better Christians, husbands, wives, neighbors, etc.?

Conclusion:

- A. Let's face it, we do not believe in these divine incentives enough or we would do better.
- B. Let's face it, we try to motivate people by every means other than the Lord's incentives.
- C. The Lord's incentives are balanced with both goodness and severity -- love and wrath.