

Romans 2:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Analysis

In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel—ἐν ἡμέρᾳ ὅτε κρίνει ὁ θεὸς τὰ κρυπτὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ κατὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιόν μου (en hēmera hote krinei ho theos ta krypta tōn anthrōpōn dia Iēsou Christou kata to euangelion mou). Τὰ κρυπτὰ (ta krypta, "the hidden things/secrets") indicates God's judgment penetrates beyond actions to motives, thoughts, and secret sins (Ecclesiastes 12:14, 1 Corinthians 4:5).

By Jesus Christ—διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ (dia Iēsou Christou) identifies Christ as judge. John 5:22, 27 and Acts 17:31 confirm God appointed the Son as eschatological judge. The Judge is the crucified Savior, making judgment both terrifying (He knows all) and merciful (He bore the wrath we deserved). **According to my gospel**—κατὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιόν μου links judgment to Paul's message. The gospel includes both salvation and judgment, grace and wrath, justification and condemnation.

This verse concludes verses 12-15's argument: all face judgment (Gentiles by natural law, Jews by Torah), and that judgment occurs at Christ's tribunal, exposing every secret. The phrase "secrets of men" demolishes religious hypocrisy—God judges hearts, not reputations. Nothing is hidden from Him (Hebrews 4:13); all will be revealed (Luke 12:2-3). Only those clothed in Christ's righteousness escape condemnation (Romans 8:1).

Historical Context

Jewish eschatology expected a final judgment day (Yom YHWH), often focusing on Gentile nations. Paul Christianizes this: Jesus Christ is judge, and judgment evaluates response to the gospel. The 'day' references Daniel 7:13-14's vision of the Son of Man receiving dominion and judgment. Early Christians intensely anticipated Christ's return as judge (1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10). Paul here integrates this eschatological judgment into his argument about universal human accountability.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What 'secrets'—hidden sins, unconfessed motives, private thoughts—would God's judgment expose in my life?
2. How does knowing Jesus Christ is my judge both terrify me (He knows all) and comfort me (I'm justified by faith in Him)?
3. Do I live with awareness of the coming 'day' of judgment, or does pragmatic atheism govern my daily choices?

Interlinear Text

ἐν ἡμέρᾳ ὅτε κρίνει ὁ θεὸς τὰ κρυπτὰ τῶν
In the day when shall judge G3588 **God** G3588 **the secrets** G3588
G1722 G2250 G3753 G2919 G2316 G2927

ἀνθρώπων κατὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιόν μου διὰ Ἰησοῦ
of men according G3588 **gospel** **to my by** **Jesus**
G444 G2596 G2098 G3450 G1223 G2424

Χριστοῦ
Christ
G5547

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (Judgment): For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

1 Corinthians 4:5 (Judgment): Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Acts 17:31 (Judgment): Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Acts 10:42 (Judgment): And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

Luke 8:17 (Parallel theme): For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.

Psalms 98:9 (Judgment): Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

Romans 3:6 (Judgment): God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?

1 Peter 4:5 (Judgment): Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

2 Peter 2:9 (Judgment): The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Romans 16:25 (References Jesus): Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org