

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

MEN THAT ARE TO BE JUDGED

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART TWENTY SIX OF SIXTY FOUR*

If there is any lesson that stands in solemn clearness in the New Testament it is that we are "men that are to be judged." "For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Cor. 5:10). James teaches that our lives are to be ordered in the light of the coming judgment for he admonishes, "So speak ye, and so do, as men that are to be judged by a law of liberty" (Jas. 2:12). Our whole lives both in actions and words are to be lived so that at any time we are ready to give account to God. It is as certain as yesterday that man will be judged (Mt. 25:31-46). "Watch therefore, for ye know not the day nor the hour" (Mt. 25:13).

Our condition before God will be determined by the "law of liberty" which is James' way of describing the "word of truth," "the implanted word" (James 1:18,21,25). These are just other ways of describing the gospel as the basis of judgment (Rom. 2:16). Jesus says, "The word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). John saw men being judged "out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Rev. 20:12).

When a person takes a driving examination he is careful about every rule and regulation in the manual. He knows the officer beside him is watching closely, and is judging according to the book. Whether or not a license is granted will depend upon how closely the candidate complies with the rules. Too many times an experienced driver forgets the rules because an officer is not checking and judging him. The same thing is done in our lives from day to day except the Judge is watching, but we live as if He were not. We forget that entrance into eternal life will come only after we are judged. "And there is no creature that is not manifest in his sight; but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Heb. 4:13). "So speak ye, and so do, as men that are to be judged by a law of liberty" (James 2:12).

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