

# Ezekiel 33:13,19-20

## God's Standard

*“When I say to the righteous he will surely live, and he so trusts in his righteousness that he commits iniquity, none of his righteous deeds will be remembered; but in that same iniquity of his which he has committed he will die.”*

*“But when the wicked turns from their wickedness and practices justice and righteousness, he will live by them. Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not right.’ O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways.” -The Lord*

These are sobering words for a society of believers who throw around the word “Grace” all too easily. This word is for us! How many times do we justify our behavior when it involves committing something that at the back of our minds we know doesn't line up with God's commandments. We treat God's grace so casually as to not even bother to look too closely at whether or not what we're doing is sin. Contenting ourselves that some form of righteousness whether it is Jesus' covering or some past good we did makes up for this present bad.

Here God is clearly dealing with the same issues of human nature trusting that something we did or were born into will cover our transgressions. God says here that if we choose to go back to our sin or not to bother finding out if what we are doing really is sinful then we will bear our own penalty. The people then begin arguing that this isn't fair and God concludes with - If a wicked man turns back to God and repents and changes his ways then he shall be saved. *“I will judge each of you according to his ways.”*

Being judged according to our ways is scary because we allow so many compromises into our “Christian Walk”. We go to see movies that break all of His commandments or listen to music that is all about stirring up the passions of the flesh - let alone all the entertainment that outright blasphemes the Lord's name and character. Do we think that after Jesus has paid such a high price to rescue us from sin that He will simply gloss over the fact that we love doing the things that put Him on the cross to begin with?

Only a humble and repentant heart will compensate for our actions. This is the only remedy for our deeds because it shows Him that He still has our heart even when we have stumbled. But the question is, “Why would we want to love what He hates and cost Him so much pain?” Don't we as Christians, want to please Him? Why do we spend so much time trying to slip by His rules and to justify our actions for doing so. We use His own grace as a weapon against Him every time we are confronted with something we might be doing wrong. We cannot use His gift of grace against Him to justify our lack of striving after a holy life. He is glad to give us grace if we are striving to obey, but if we use it as a covering for leaving sin in our lives and living our lives as usual with no change, this will not work. We cannot use His grace against Him.

We live in a wicked society and the church has embraced so much of it that most of the time you can't tell the difference between them and the world.

### **God's standard, “I will judge each of you according to his ways**

His grace is there for all who desire to turn from their sin but not for those who desire to go back to their sin from which they were rescued.

May God's Holy Spirit renew each of our lives and remove all desire to live a compromised walk.

God bless you all!