

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

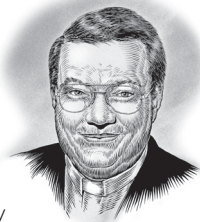
How Does Jesus Judge Us?

Know This...

We don't mind being judged, if we're judged by the right criteria. If an employer judges us on the quality of our work and not on the color of our skin; on our sincere desire to serve the needs of the organization and not on our willingness to cheat customers, then we welcome judgment. The question is, "How does Jesus judge us?" The Bible is very clear—He will judge us by our deeds. God gives each of us the grace we need to have faith in Him and to do His will. Our faith in Jesus Christ and our perseverance in good works is the pathway to eternity in Heaven.



James: Jesus is calling us into an intimate relationship with Him. This should comfort us, because there is merit in our heart's desire to please Him with good deeds.



John: Jesus will judge parents on how they raised their children; priests on how they pastored their flocks; vowed religious on how they lived their vows; politicians on how they served the people; soldiers and police officers on how they protected the innocent; business owners and union leaders on how they treated workers; and all of us on how we lived the moral law.

James: We are saved by the grace of God and not by anything we do. But if God's grace moves us, awakens us to His presence and to the challenges He sends our way, then our good deeds will be judged meritorious.

Deacon John Beckmann and Deacon James Russell are permanent deacons in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Please visit: www.catholicchristians.com for more insight into the teaching of Jesus Christ and His Church.

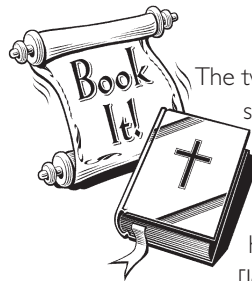


"For nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known." Mt. 10:26 "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit... A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for

from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks... I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, listens to my words, and acts on them. That one is like a person building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when the flood came, the river burst against that house but could not shake it because it had been well built. But the one who listens and does not act is like a person who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, it collapsed at once and was completely destroyed." Lk 6:43, 45, 47-49



"Christ is Lord of eternal life. Full right to pass definitive judgment on the works and hearts of men belongs to him as redeemer of the world. He 'acquired' this right by his cross. The Father has given 'all judgment to the Son.' Yet the Son did not come to judge, but to save and to give the life he has in himself. By rejecting grace in this life, one already judges oneself, receives according to one's works, and can even condemn oneself for all eternity by rejecting the Spirit of love." CCC 679 "When he comes at the end of time to judge the living and the dead, the glorious Christ will reveal the secret disposition of hearts and will render to each man according to his works and according to his acceptance or refusal of grace." CCC 682



The two great apostles spoke of Jesus as judge. Peter said, "He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead." Acts 10:42 Paul said, "He [God] has established a day on which he will 'judge the world with justice' through a man [Jesus] he has appointed." Acts 17:31 "We know that in

everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose." Rom 8:28 "They profess to know God, but they deny him by their deeds." Titus 1:16a "No creature is concealed from him [Jesus], but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account." Heb 4:13 "Let them [the dead] find rest from their labors, for their works accompany them." Rel 14:13b "All the dead were judged according to their deeds." Rel 20:13b

God and Father of all the living and the dead, You sent Your Holy Spirit to breathe life into us; You sent Your only begotten Son to suffer, die, rise from the dead, and open the gates of heaven for us; and You gave Him authority to judge the living and the dead. As the day of our Lord's return draws near, give me the grace I need to complete the good works you have begun in me. I ask this in Your Son's most Holy Name. Amen.

