

## **Ole Miss FCA Weekly Devotional: 12/14/09**

*The Power and Passion of the Master Coach, Elliot Johnson*



### **Thought of the Week:**

God is Just

### **Verse of the Week:**

The LORD is known by His justice. Psalm 9:16

Making good judgments is sometimes a hit-and-miss proposition. Often we fail. In baseball, a hitter is constantly trying to guess what the pitcher will throw next. In football, a defensive coach tries to predict where the offense will run. Basketball coaches try to outmaneuver each other. Sometimes they are right and sometimes they are wrong. We fail because we seldom have all the facts. We don't always know what the other person is thinking. We're looking for a fastball, and the pitcher throws a curve ball, or we're looking for a pass and they run! We're expecting a pass to a guard and they pass the ball to the center! We don't know all the facts, we don't know the future, and sometimes we don't even react properly when we do know!

God knows everything about us. He knows our thoughts before we think them (Psalm 139:1-6). Nothing can escape His sight (Psalm 139:7-12). He judges the thoughts and intentions of our hearts (Hebrews 4:12-13). God's judgment is always perfect, because He knows all the facts. Those who think they are getting away with something may escape our notice, but they will never escape the notice of God. The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good (Proverbs 15:3). Take comfort, righteous ones, for goodness will be vindicated and evil will be punished!

Good judgment is never a problem for God. He knows all the facts and He never guesses! His judgment is just and He must punish sin. He holds man accountable for his actions. Adam and Eve knew there were consequences for their sin (Genesis 3:1-24). God has set a standard for man, and there have always been consequences for breaking God's standard. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages [or payment] of sin is death." Sin is serious business to God and is punishable by death. It was the Lord Jesus Christ who paid for our sin on the cross. Hebrews 2:9 says that He "tasted death for everyone." By His death, Jesus paid the debt we owed. Throughout history God has punished sin; the flood (Genesis 6-9), the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19), the Egyptian plagues (Exodus 7-14), Israel's defeat at Ai (Joshua 7), David's suffering because of Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12), the destruction of Israel (Jeremiah 52; Lamentations 4), and the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-16) are examples of God's just punishment for sin. During the tribulation, God's wrath will be poured out upon evil, and men will cry out for rocks to fall upon them (Revelation 6:12-17). Eventually, God will cast Satan and all nonbelievers into the lake of fire for eternity (Revelation 20:11-15). Yes, the Lord sits in judgment over the earth (Psalm 9:4, 7-10). We must answer to Him!

On the positive side, God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). God judges the wicked and lifts up the humble (Psalm 75). What a blessing it is to follow Christ! Nothing we do in the name of Christ will go unrewarded by God. Psalm 37:17-18 says, "The LORD upholds the righteous. The days of the blameless are known to the LORD, and their inheritance will endure forever." God promised not only to sustain all those who truly trust Him, but also to give them an inheritance that will never fade away (1 Peter 1:3-5). The blessing we receive from following God is beyond our comprehension. If our reward is not realized in the present, it will be in the future. In 1 Corinthians 2:9, Paul says, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him." Wow!

Incomprehensible blessing awaits everyone who loves Him! So, we must not be weary in well-doing. Our reward awaits us!

Time Out:

- (1) How do you feel knowing that God knows all the facts of your life?
- (2) Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. The rewards of believers will be determined by the quality of fruit produced.
  - How much of your life is going to be burned on judgment day?
  - How much time do you spend with eternal values in view?
  - Judgment is a sobering thought. All believers will be saved, but how much will you be rewarded for faithfulness?
- (3) Study the following verses. What does each tell us about the justice of God?
  - Psalm 34:21-22
  - Psalm 37:12-17
  - Psalm 94:1
  - Psalm 110:6