

Speaking Truth In Love

Governor Felix “*sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ*” (Acts 24:24). Felix listened carefully and “*trembled*” at what he heard. Why? Paul “*reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come” (24:25).*

Righteousness is the quality of being right or just. The gospel of Jesus Christ reveals the righteousness of God (Rom 1:16-17). It is a quality He grants to “*the one who has faith in Jesus*” (Rom 3:5; 25-26). One must not sin but “*awake to righteousness*” (1 Cor 15:34) and “*pursue*” it (1 Tim 6:11; 2 Tim 2:22), there is a “*crown of righteousness*” awaiting those who will (2 Tim 4:8).

Self-control is the power to master one’s desires. It is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:23), a product of God’s word being active in one’s life. It must be added to one’s character if he hopes to go to heaven (cf. 2 Pet 1:6, 11). To obtain the “*imperishable crown*” one must have self-control “*in all things*” (1 Cor 9:25).

Judgment to come refers to the final judgment. John “*saw the dead, small and great, standing before God...judged according to their works*” (Rev 20:12). It will fall on a certain “*day*” (Acts 17:31), and Jesus will sit on the “*judgment seat*” to pass sentence (2 Cor 5:10). After the judgment, John identified “*the lake of fire*” (Rev 20:15) as the final abode of the unrighteous.

Felix “trembled” at hearing these words. How do they affect us? Felix waited for a “*convenient time*” to follow the Savior. May we follow Him today, for “*now is the day of salvation*” (2 Cor 6:2).

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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
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