> No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.
> *— 1 Corinthians 9:27*

Book: New Testament / 1 Corinthians
Topics: judgment, body, self-control

Interpretation:
The Apostle Paul wrote 1 Corinthians to address several important issues in the church in Corinth. In chapter 9, Paul talks about his ministry and how he worked hard to preach *the gospel* despite not receiving financial compensation.

He uses his own life as an example to the Corinthians, saying that he adapted to the local culture and gave up his rights to regain what he had lost. Paul also compares his ministry to athletes who work hard to win a prize.

What does it mean to “no, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave”?

The verse in question, *1 Corinthians 9:27*, is the logical conclusion to Paul’s previous argument. He makes it clear that his ministry is not for selfish gain, but to preach the gospel out *of love for Christ*. As the chapter progresses, he begins to reflect on how we should live a balanced life so that we are not tempted and focused on serving God.

When Paul says, *“I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave,”* he is referring to the discipline, self-control, and self-denial that a true Christian must practice. This means that we are not to allow our fleshly desires to rule over us, but rather to subdue and control them in order to serve God. Just as athletes train hard and discipline themselves to win, Christians must also be disciplined in all areas of their lives.

Avoid self-deception

Paul is afraid of being led astray and away from God’s purpose by giving in to purely human desires. That is why he says, *“so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.”* Paul recognizes that being a teacher of others is a great responsibility, as your actions can negatively influence people and lead them astray from the path of salvation.

This verse can also inspire us to consider our own self-deception. It is easy to justify our own mistakes, but we must not allow ourselves to be undermined. We must be honest with God and ourselves and take steps to correct the negative behaviors we have.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.
> *— 2 Peter 2:9*

Book: New Testament / 2 Peter
Topics: judgment, punishment, Salvation, temptation

Interpretation:
2 Peter 2:9 tells us about God's ability to deliver us from temptation and to punish those who live unjustly. This passage shows us how important it is to trust in God's grace and His will to succeed in times when our decisions are tested.

This verse is found in the context of the apostle *Peter's* call to Christians to be alert to false teachers and their deceptions. Peter urges them not to follow these teachings, as doing so will have serious consequences for their lives.

In this sense, the verse tells us to be vigilant and to seek God's help to overcome temptations and obstacles that arise in our lives. God's will is our strength in times of weakness and it is this that will help us to remain steadfast in His way.

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> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

> — *2 Peter 3:10*

Book: New Testament / 2 Peter
Topics: judgment, heaven, Second coming, world, end times

Interpretation:
The Day of the Lord is a future event foretold in the Bible, when God will judge the world. This judgment will be as sudden as a thief in the night and catastrophic. *2 Peter 3:10* presents an apocalyptic picture of the destruction of all things in the world.

Meaning of words

To better understand this verse, it is helpful to understand the meaning of some key words. The expression *"Day of the Lord"* is used in the Bible to refer not only to the Day of Judgment but also to other periods of divine judgment. The term *"elements"* refers not only to the basic components of the physical world, such as water and air, but also to the cosmic and spiritual forces that govern the universe. The phrase *"shall be destroyed by fire"* implies that these elements will be reduced to their most basic components.

A call to reflection

The image of the Last Judgment may seem frightening, but it can also be seen as a call to reflection. If we believe that God will judge the world, then we must ask ourselves how we can live in a way that pleases Him. Are we living according to the Bible's teachings? Do we show love and compassion to others? Reflecting on these questions can help us live more meaningful and sincere lives.

Applying the verse to our lives

The image of the Last Judgment may seem frightening, but it can also be seen as an opportunity to live life meaningfully. Instead of worrying about the exact day of the Last Judgment, we can focus on how we can make a positive impact on the world here and now. We can live our lives glorifying God and helping others, regardless of the outcome of the judgment.

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> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.
>
> *— 2 Timothy 4:7-8*

Book: New Testament / 2 Timothy
Topics: judgment, Eternal life, faith, reward, righteousness

Interpretation:
2 Timothy 4:7-8 is a powerful statement from the Apostle *Paul* about his Christian life. In these verses, Paul speaks of the struggle and effort it takes to follow *Jesus Christ* in a hostile and difficult society.

Verse content

First, it is important to understand the historical context in which Paul wrote to *Timothy*. This letter is the last known writing attributed to Paul. It was written in a Roman prison, shortly before his execution. Paul knew that his earthly end was near, and so he encouraged Timothy to remain steadfast in his faith. In this context, Paul uses the metaphor of a battle and a race to describe his own experience following *Christ*.

The good fight

Paul speaks of a “good fight.” This phrase suggests that the struggle a Christian faces is not for selfish ends, but for a noble and just cause. Fighting the good fight means resisting temptations and pressures that could separate us from God and remaining steadfast in our faith despite difficulties.

Finishing the race

The apostle also speaks of “finishing the race.” This expression suggests that the Christian life is a race that must be run with perseverance and dedication. The race of faith is a commitment to the Gospel and Christian values, a race that begins in our lives and continues to the end. For Paul, finishing the race means achieving what God has entrusted to him despite difficulties and obstacles.

Keeping the faith

Finally, Paul speaks of “keeping the faith.” Faith is the key element in his statement. Christians must keep the faith at all costs. Faith is what keeps us steadfast and protects us from external influences that could lead us astray. Hebrews tells us that faith is *“confidence in what we hope for and assurance*

about what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1).

Crown of justice

The crown of righteousness is a heavenly reward given to those who have served God faithfully and lived righteous and godly lives. It is a reward that only the Lord can give, and it is reserved for those who have fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept faith to the end. The crown of righteousness is a testimony of God's love, grace, and faithfulness toward His servants.

The just Judge

The Apostle Paul mentions that the crown of righteousness will be given to him by the Lord, the righteous Judge. This tells us that the crown of righteousness will not be given arbitrarily or unjustly, but will be given according to the justice of God. He is the one who knows our hearts, our motives, and our actions, and will judge impartially and fairly.

To all who loved His appearing

Paul also mentions that the crown of righteousness will be given not only to him, but to all those who loved the Lord's appearing. This means that it is not enough to serve God faithfully; it is necessary to have a joyful and ardent expectation of the second coming of Christ. Those who loved His coming are characterized by a life of holiness and by waiting with faith and confidence for the coming of the Lord, knowing that it will be a time of victory and the full fulfillment of God's promise.

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> Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.
>
> — *Colossians 2:16-17*

Book: New Testament / Colossians
Topics: judgment, food, Jesus, sabbath

Interpretation:

Colossians 2:16-17 talks about the freedom Christians have in eating, drinking, and celebrating. Colossians was written by St. *Paul* to unify Christian beliefs and clear up misconceptions among new believers. At the time, some Jews had influenced the church in Colossae by imposing Jewish traditions and customs on Gentile converts to Christianity. These teachings led to confusion and legalism in the community of believers.

Freedom in Christ

In these verses, St. Paul encourages Christians not to worry about criticism from “super-spiritual ones.” He reminds them that *Christ* has given them the freedom to make decisions about cultural traditions and norms. Faith is not a matter of performing rituals and ceremonies, but a personal relationship with God.

The fact that some Christians keep certain days holy and abstain from certain foods does not mean that all believers should do the same. Each person has his own conscience, guided by *the Holy Spirit*, and must make wise and responsible decisions regarding food and celebrations.

A shadow of the future

The Bible is a source of wisdom and teaching for millions of people around the world. Each verse has important meaning and can impact our daily lives if we apply it correctly. Before analyzing these verses further, it is important to understand what the word *“shadow”* means. In this context, a shadow refers to something projected but not the reality itself. A shadow is nothing more than a dim reflection of something to come.

What does “the body of Christ” mean?

The final part of the verses refers to *the body of Christ*, which is the church. In other words, while religious teachings and practices may be important, the true essence of the Christian faith lies in the community of believers and their relationship with *Jesus Christ*.

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> When the sentence for a crime is not quickly carried out, people’s hearts are filled with schemes to do wrong.
>
> — *Ecclesiastes 8:11*

Book: Old Testament / Ecclesiastes
Topics: judgment, evil, heart, punishment, sin

Interpretation:
The Book of Ecclesiastes is a poetic and philosophical work reflecting on the meaning of life and man's relationship with God. In chapter 8, verse 11, the author emphasizes the importance of justice and punishment to prevent people from committing evil deeds. This verse reminds us that if evil deeds go unpunished, people will be inclined to commit evil.

Justice in society

Justice is a fundamental value of any society that aspires to democracy and freedom. Without justice, the harmony of society will be undermined by impunity. If people do not see the consequences of their misdeeds, they themselves may be tempted to commit evil deeds, leading to a cycle of violence and impunity that undermines the social fabric.

The importance of punishment

Ecclesiastes 8:11 emphasizes the necessity of punishment to maintain justice in society. Punishment is not only a form of vengeance against the criminal but also a way to deter others from committing evil deeds. Therefore, punitive measures are necessary to respond to crimes committed and prevent their recurrence.

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> Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.
> *— Hebrews 13:4*

Book: New Testament / Hebrews
Topics: judgment, desires, marriage, sexuality

Interpretation:
Hebrews 13:4 reminds us of the importance of marriage and chastity in the daily lives of Christians. The writer of Hebrews calls marriage honorable and sexual intercourse something that should be without blemish, meaning without impurity or sin.

Marriage as a sacred institution

In this verse, the writer of Hebrews mentions that marriage is honorable in every way. This means that marriage is a sacred institution in the eyes of God and should be respected by Christians.

One of the main reasons why marriage is considered honorable is that it is a union based on love and fidelity. Therefore, it implies an intimate, committed, and sacred relationship between two people.

Chastity as a virtue

The writer also mentions that the bed should be undefiled, meaning it should be a sexual act free from impurity and sin. This refers to chastity as a Christian virtue, considered important for maintaining spiritual purity. Chastity is a commitment to living in sexual purity both before and after marriage.

The consequences of sexual sin

In the second part of the verse, the author warns Christians about the consequences of sexual sin. The fact that God judges fornicators and adulterers means that sexual activity outside of marriage or unfaithfulness within marriage is incompatible with the moral and religious standards set by God. Failure to comply with these regulations can have a negative impact on a person's relationship with God and on their daily life.

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> Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about cleansing rites, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.
> — *Hebrews 6:1-2*

Book: New Testament / Hebrews
Topics: judgment, baptism, conversion, faith, repentance, Resurrection

Interpretation:
Hebrews 6:1-2 is an important verse for understanding holiness and perfection in the Christian life. These verses call us to leave behind the first principles, or basic tenets, *of Christ's* teaching and move

on to perfection. But what exactly does this mean?

First, to understand the importance of these verses, we must understand what is meant by *“first principles,”* or *“basic tenets of Christ’s teaching.”* This refers to the foundational elements of the Christian faith, such as repentance from dead works and faith in God. These principles are necessary for those beginning their journey in the Christian faith, but they should not be the only foundation they rely on in their Christian life.

In these verses, we are called to *“press on unto perfection.”* This refers to the further deepening of our faith and our growing conformity to *the image of Christ*. Perfection is not an unattainable goal, but a continuous journey toward holiness that all Christians are to follow. As we move forward on this path, we must leave behind the vestiges and deepen our relationship with God.

However, this does not mean that we must completely abandon the fundamental principles of the Christian faith. In fact, maintaining a strong faith in God and repentance are crucial to our spiritual growth. The key is to go beyond these principles and deepen our understanding of them.

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> My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you. When your judgments come upon the earth, the people of the world learn righteousness.
>
> *— Isaiah 26:9*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah
Topics: judgment, learning, righteousness

Interpretation:
One of the most touching and inspiring verses in the Bible is found in *Isaiah 26:9*. This verse illustrates a person's deep and intimate longing for God and the need to continually seek Him in their lives.

A longing for God in the night

Isaiah expresses his longing for God at night. Night is a time of solitude, conducive to reflection and a deepening of our relationship with God.

In the midst of darkness, we long for God's light and His presence in our lives. This verse shows us that it is precisely in times of loneliness and darkness that we most need to seek a relationship with God.

Seek God constantly

Isaiah also says that he will rise early to seek God. This means we must seek God continually, not just in difficult times. Our search for God should not be an occasional event, but a constant need. God is the center of our lives, and His presence fills us with peace and joy.

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> “No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the Lord.
>
> *— Isaiah 54:17*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah
Topics: judgment, idols, protection, righteousness

Interpretation:
Isaiah 54:17 is a powerful reminder that our God is always with us and protects us from all harm. This passage assures us that if we are faithful to God, no weapon formed against us will prosper, and we will rebuke every tongue that rises against us in judgment. This means that God will always be on our side and will protect us from those who seek to harm us.

The importance of trusting God's promises

It's easy to be skeptical when it comes to promises, especially when they are the result of faith. However, *Isaiah 54:17* shows us the importance of trusting God's promises. God's voice through *Isaiah* assures us that if we follow God's commandments, nothing will harm us, and every tongue that rises against us will be punished.

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translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?
> — *James 4:12*

Book: New Testament / James
Topics: judgment, law, neighbor, righteousness, Salvation

Interpretation:
The Bible verse *James 4:12* teaches us a valuable lesson about not judging others. It is directed at those who judge others and feel superior to others, although they should remember that only God has the right to judge. Judging others is a common tendency in today's society. However, we must remember that this is unfair and not in line with what *Christ* taught us.

Instead of judging, we should be compassionate and seek to understand others. We should conduct ourselves in such a way as to offer love and acceptance to everyone, no matter what. *James 4:12* also reminds us that no one is perfect and that we all fail in certain areas of life. Therefore, we must be patient with ourselves and others and seek God's guidance at all times.

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> Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.
> — *James 5:12*

Book: New Testament / James
Topics: judgment, honesty, punishment, speaking, truth

Interpretation:
James 5:12 encourages us to be honest and consistent in our words and actions at all times. In this passage, *James* admonishes us not to swear, that is, to make promises or commitments that we

cannot keep. Instead, he encourages us to speak the truth and be clear in our answers to avoid condemnation.

The importance of being honest and consistent in your words

There are many reasons why we should be honest and consistent in our words. First, as Christians, we are called to be imitators *of Jesus*, who always spoke the truth and kept His promises. Furthermore, if we want to be trustworthy and reliable in the eyes of others, it is important that our words match our actions.

Moreover, being honest and consistent in our words helps us to be more authentic and transparent. When we say what we mean and act in accordance with our values, we are being true to ourselves and what we believe. This allows us to have deeper and more meaningful relationships with others and gives us a greater sense of peace and security in our daily lives.

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> When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment.
>
> *— John 16:8*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: judgment, Holy Spirit, Mediator, righteousness, sin

Interpretation:
John 16:8 tells us about the work that the *Holy Spirit* will do in the world when He comes. This will be a very important work because it will convince the world of sin, justice, and judgment. But what do these three things mean, and how can we apply them in our lives?

Convincing the world of sin

The word *“sin”* comes from the Greek word *“hamartia,”* which means *“to miss the mark.”* This means that when we sin, we stray from the path that God has set for us. The Holy Spirit will convict us of sin, which means He will make us realize our mistakes and motivate us to repent. By acknowledging our mistakes, we can ask God for forgiveness, which will strengthen our relationship with Him.

Convincing the world of justice

Justice is one of the central aspects of the Bible. God is just, and in His justice, He will send *His Son Jesus* to save us from our sins. The Holy Spirit will convince us of this righteousness so that we will understand that the only way to salvation is through Jesus. This will motivate us to believe in Him and live according to His will.

Convince the world of judgment

The judgment is the time when we will all stand before God. During the trial, every action we take in life will be evaluated and a decision will be made accordingly. The Holy Spirit will make us aware of this judgment, which will motivate us to take our lives and actions seriously. In this way, we can prepare for the Last Judgment and live our daily lives in a way that pleases God.

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> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.
>
> *— John 3:17*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: judgment, Jesus, Salvation, world

Interpretation:
John 3:17 reminds us that Jesus came into the world to save sinners, not to condemn them. His death on the cross was the greatest act of love in history because through it He redeemed us and gave us the opportunity to have a relationship with God. This fact is the foundation of Christianity and the reason we believe in Jesus as the Savior of the world.

This verse can be of great help to those who feel trapped in sin or believe that God condemns them for their actions. John 3:17 reminds us that God loves us and that He sent His Son to die for us so that we could be saved. This gives us hope and allows us to turn to Him at any time.

The fact that God loves humanity so much that He sent His Son to die for us is amazing. It is hard to understand why we do not deserve such love and grace. However, this verse reminds us that there is nothing we can do to deserve salvation, but it is a gift from God.

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> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.
> *— John 3:18*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: judgment, faith

Interpretation:
This verse emphasizes the importance of believing in *Jesus* as the only begotten Son of God so that we will not be condemned. But what does this really mean for us?

The Meaning of Believing in Jesus

In Jesus’ time, Christianity as such did not yet exist. In fact, He was a Jew and He preached to Jews. But Jesus was never an ordinary Jew. He claimed to be the *Son of God*, a teaching that made many religious leaders of that time uncomfortable.

But what does it mean for us to believe in *Jesus as the Son of God*? First of all, it means accepting that He is the way, the truth, and the life *(John 14:6)*, and that only through Him can we reach the Father in heaven. In other words, it means recognizing that the plan of salvation exists through Jesus.

Condemnation for Unbelief

John 3:18 is very clear on this point: anyone who does not believe in Jesus is condemned already. But why is that? Why is it so important to believe in Him?

First of all, not believing in Jesus means rejecting the only form of salvation that exists. This rejection can be due to many reasons: distrust, unbelief, ignorance, etc. But no matter the reason, the reality is that by not believing in Him, you are rejecting the offer of salvation that God has made to us.

Moreover, not believing in Jesus means going down the wrong path. The world offers us many options, but none of them will lead us to eternal life. Without Jesus, our lives are doomed to a tragic and painful end. But believing in Him gives us the opportunity to have life in abundance *(John 10:10)*.

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> Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.
> *— Luke 6:37*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: judgment, Forgiveness

Interpretation:
This is a Bible verse that tells us how important it is not to judge others. It reminds us that if we judge others, we will be judged; if we condemn, we will be condemned. In short, it encourages us to forgive and be forgiven.

Judging others is a very common behavior in our society. Often, we judge others based on their appearance, beliefs, lifestyle, or choices. However, by doing so, we can hurt people and stray from our own values.

When we judge someone, we focus on their flaws instead of their strengths. In addition, we also forget about our own mistakes and shortcomings, which can make it difficult to empathize and understand.

Forgiveness is one of the central axes of the Christian faith. According to the Bible, forgiveness is an act of mercy and compassion that allows us to free ourselves from bitterness and resentment. By forgiving, we can move forward in life and free ourselves from our mistakes and shortcomings.

Forgiveness also allows us to build stronger, more genuine relationships with the people around us. By forgiving, we can learn to see the world with greater compassion and empathy, encouraging generosity, love, and kindness.

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> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
> — *Mark 16:16*

Book: New Testament / Mark
Topics: judgment, baptism, faith, punishment, Salvation

Interpretation:
The Bible is a source of teachings and advice that Christians strive to apply in their daily lives. One such piece of advice can be found in *Mark 16:16*. This verse emphasizes the importance of faith in God and baptism in order to achieve salvation.

Believe in God

One of the key points from this verse *is faith in God*. This concept is at the core of the Christian religion, as it is through faith that salvation can be achieved. Faith in God is the foundation of the Christian religion, as it guides the lives of its followers. Through faith, Christians strive to live a life filled with love, compassion, and connection with their *Creator*.

Baptism

Another important concept in *Mark 16:16* is baptism. Baptism is a religious rite that symbolizes the renewal of a believer's life and his or her commitment to God. It is a gesture that demonstrates a desire to live a life filled with faith and love for God. It is important not only to believe in God, but also to demonstrate it through your actions.

The importance of salvation

Mark 16:16 also emphasizes the importance of salvation. Salvation is a key concept in Christianity because it represents the ultimate goal of believers. It involves liberation from sin and attainment of eternal life in heaven. It is important to emphasize that salvation is not earned automatically, but must be achieved through faith and good works.

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> But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.
> — *Matthew 12:36*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: judgment, speaking

Interpretation:
The Bible is full of passages that teach us about the power of our words and their impact on others and ourselves. In *Matthew 12:36*, *Jesus* powerfully reminds us of the importance of what we say.

What does “idle talk” mean?

In this context, “idle talk” refers to any empty, meaningless, or meaningless word that may come out of our mouths. It also refers to words that may be offensive or hurtful to others. That is, any word that does not serve a constructive purpose or is not necessary for communication.

Why should we be accountable for our words?

This passage teaches us that every word that comes out of our mouths has consequences, and that we will ultimately be held accountable for them before God. This does not mean that God is ready to punish us for every “idle word” that comes out of our mouths, but rather that He is teaching us the importance of being responsible and mindful of what we say.

Impact on our relationships

Our words can have a profound impact on our relationships, both positively and negatively. They can build bridges or destroy them; they can strengthen or weaken the trust, respect, and love we have for others. So it’s important to be careful about what we say and how we say it.

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> Do not judge, or you too will be judged.
> — *Matthew 7:1*

Book: New Testament / Matthew

Topics: judgment, law

Interpretation:
This Bible verse is a clear call to be tolerant and understanding toward others. The call to *“not judge”* refers to how we should treat others, emphasizing the idea that we should not judge people without knowing their circumstances or life story.

In other words, the message is clear: if we do not want to be judged, we too must remain open and understanding toward others, always avoiding hasty judgments that could hurt or upset others.

Application to everyday life

Applying this verse to everyday life is relatively easy because it is an attitude that can be adopted at any time and regardless of circumstances.

First of all, we must remember that each person has their own life story, and we have no right to judge them without knowing it. Therefore, before making any comments, it is important to listen to others and understand their point of view. It is helpful to put yourself in the other person’s shoes and think: *have I done something similar that I would now judge?*

Likewise, it is important to remember that our actions and comments can have serious consequences on the lives of others, so it is important to think twice before judging others.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?
> — *Matthew 7:3*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: judgment, sin

Interpretation:
One of the most important messages the Bible can teach us is found in *Matthew 7:3*, which calls us to think about how we criticize others. Although we tend to be judgmental of others, this verse calls us to stop and ask ourselves why we do it and what role we play in that criticism.

The meaning of the speck of sawdust and the plank

The mote and the beam metaphor suggests that it is much easier to see the faults of others than it is to see our own, as if we were looking into an upside-down mirror. If we think about this metaphor carefully, we will realize that the mote in our brother's eye can symbolize his minor faults and unresolved issues, while the beam in our own eye can symbolize the more serious faults and imperfections that we ourselves have but do not want to see.

Self-knowledge and self-esteem

It is therefore important to learn to understand ourselves, identify our strengths and weaknesses, and then reflect on how we can improve as individuals. Self-esteem is a simple yet effective tool for identifying our own shortcomings and working on them, rather than dwelling on the mistakes of others.

Don't judge others

This verse also reminds us not to judge others, either for their mistakes or for their actions. Instead, we should help them find the right path by offering our support whenever they need it. It is important to remember that everyone is different, and what works for one may not necessarily work for another.

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> A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart.
> *— Proverbs 21:2*

Book: Old Testament / Proverbs
Topics: judgment, righteousness, thoughts, understanding

Interpretation:
Proverbs 21:2 is a verse that challenges us to reflect on our worldview and approach to life. The first part of the verse reminds us that every path we take in life, every decision we make, is judged by ourselves.

In other words, the only person who can judge the rightness of our actions is ourselves. However, the second part of the verse reminds us of a higher truth: only God can truly evaluate our hearts.

Why is self-esteem important?

Self-esteem is an important process that allows us to reflect on our thoughts, words, and actions. Self-esteem involves honest and critical self-reflection and helps us identify our strengths and weaknesses.

As this verse states, everyone considers themselves righteous in their own way. However, our perception of reality is often biased and limited, and we easily overlook our mistakes and failures. Self-esteem allows us to see our actions and decisions from a broader, more objective perspective, and therefore, to see the world around us.

Why can only God evaluate our hearts?

The second part of *Proverbs 21:2* reminds us of a fundamental truth: only God can truly judge human hearts. We often evaluate ourselves and others based on our own standards and judgments. But only God has a full and profound view of our actions and thoughts, our motives and desires.

Our self-assessment must be based on divine discernment and wisdom. When evaluating ourselves, we must do so according to God's standards and acknowledge our weaknesses and shortcomings. This doesn't mean we should judge ourselves harshly, but rather that we must be honest with ourselves and with God.

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> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.
>
> *— Revelation 20:12-13*

Book: New Testament / Revelation
Topics: judgment, Resurrection

Interpretation:
The Book of Revelation is rich in symbolism and allegory, which can make some of its statements difficult to understand for those unfamiliar with its language. *Revelation 20:12-13* is an example of this,

as it describes something that may seem strange at first glance: the sea, death, and hell, which delivers the dead to be judged according to their works.

Judgment of the dead

In this Bible passage, we see that the dead are judged *“according to their works,”* meaning that they are judged by how they lived their lives and how they behaved toward others. Regardless of how great or small they were (in terms of their social status or influence), all will be judged. In this regard, the author adds that during the evaluation process, several books are opened, including one called the *“book of life.”*

What is the book of life?

The book of life is mentioned several times in the Bible and refers to a register that contains the names of all those who have been saved or redeemed by God. In other words, those whose names are written in the book of life will be protected from the final judgment, while those who are not will be judged and condemned.

What does the “sea” mean in this verse?

In the context of Revelation, the “sea” often refers to humanity in general, especially those who are far from God and immersed in sin. In this sense, the verses can be interpreted as stating that even those who live far from God and die in their sin will be judged for their actions.

Who are the “dead” mentioned here?

The “dead” mentioned in these verses are those who died before *Christ* returned to earth. Some believe that this refers only to Christians, but most scholars believe that it refers to all of humanity, since when Christ returns, all the dead will be judged, both good and evil.

What does “Hell” mean?

In greek mythology, Hades was the underworld of the dead, but in the context of the Bible, it usually refers to the place where the spirits of the dead remain until the day of judgment. Some Bible translations use the word "hell" instead of Hades, but it is important to note that in the Bible, the idea of ??"hell" is different from the hell depicted in some popular cultures as a place of eternal torment.

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> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.
> — *Romans 12:19*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: judgment, anger, punishment

Interpretation:
Revenge is a recurring theme in many cultures and throughout human history. In the Bible, revenge is something that God reserves for himself. This verse in *Romans 12:19* calls us not to seek revenge but to leave the punishment in God’s hands. But what does this mean in practice?

Making room for God’s wrath

When someone hurts or harms us, it is natural to feel the need to *“get even.”* We may want to take revenge and even hurt the other person. But the Bible calls us to set aside that impulse and trust God to bring justice.

Making room for God’s wrath does not mean that we should be passive in the face of evil. For example, if someone intentionally harms us, we can and should take action to protect ourselves or others. But we should not seek revenge but trust that God will take care of the punishment.

Revenge and forgiveness

The call not to seek revenge is also related to forgiveness. When someone hurts or harms us, it can be very difficult to forgive. But forgiveness is an important part of moving forward and letting go of the pain and anger.

Revenge and forgiveness are linked because we often seek revenge because we believe that someone has wronged us and deserves to be punished. But when we learn to forgive, we stop seeking revenge and trust that God will take care of the punishment that is deserved.

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> Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.
>
> — *Romans 14:13*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: judgment, gentleness, neighbor

Interpretation:
One of the greatest conflicts that arise in human relationships is, without a doubt, judging others. In many cases, we interfere in the lives of others by expressing our opinions about what they do, decide, or think, without taking into account that, as individuals, each of us has our own point of view.

This verse from *Romans 14:13* gives us an important recommendation: avoid judging and care for our brothers, lest they fall into temptation.

Let us not judge one another

The Apostle Paul asks us in this verse from Romans not to judge one another. This means that we, as Christians, should avoid making hasty judgments without taking into account that each person has a history and context that justifies their actions.

We are all different, and so what feels right to me may not feel right to someone else. This suggestion is directly related to the core principle of the Christian faith: *love for one's neighbor*.

Don't cause a fall

The second commandment in *Romans 14:13*, which asks us not to cause our brothers to fall or stumble, can be understood as a call to be more careful in our actions and words.

As Christians, it is important for us to be aware of the impact our actions can have on others. We must consider how our actions may impact those around us, especially those who are new to their faith journey or who are struggling.

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> The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them.
> — *Romans 14:3*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: judgment, food

Interpretation:
Romans 14:3 encourages tolerance and respect for those who have different eating habits. In this passage, *the Apostle Paul* encourages us not to look down on or judge those whose eating habits differ from ours.

Context of the verse

To better understand this verse, it is important to consider the context in which it was written. At the time Paul wrote this letter to the Romans, there was a heated debate in the church about whether or not Christians should eat meat that had been sacrificed to idols. Some believed that it was a sin, while others believed that it was fine.

Paul, in his wisdom, realized that this debate was not essential to the Christian faith and that what was truly important was love and unity among brothers. So instead of taking sides, he encouraged the Romans to respect one another and not judge others by their eating habits.

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> Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand.
> — *Romans 14:4*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: judgment, equipment, faith

Interpretation:

Romans 14:4 speaks of the human tendency to judge others and criticize their actions. *The apostle Paul*, the author of Romans, reminds us that we should not worry about judging our neighbors, but trust that the Lord will guide each of us in his or her unique path. We are not judges of others' lives, and it is important to give up this pretense lest we fall into the sin of judgment.

The temptation to judge

One of the most common sins in everyday life is judgment. We are often inclined to point fingers at others, criticize their decisions, and criticize their behavior, believing that our opinion is correct.

However, God calls us to be humble and accept that each person is free to make his or her own decisions and that ultimately he or she will be accountable to Him. *Romans 14:4* reminds us that we are not judges of others' lives, and that our job is to love and accompany those around us without judging them.

The importance of trusting God

Romans 14:4 calls us to trust God and leave each person's life in His hands. We often worry too much about the path of others, thinking that we can guide them to good. However, the truth is that only God knows the path that each of us should follow, and our role is to help those who need us, without trying to impose our will.

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> You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.
> *— Romans 2:1*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: judgment, neighbor, righteousness

Interpretation:
Romans 2:1 challenges us to consider our role as humans in judging others. In this verse, the *Apostle Paul* criticizes the attitude of people who think they have the right to judge others without realizing that they are judging themselves.

What does it mean to be unforgivable?

The verse begins by stating that a person is *“unforgivable.”* This means that all people are accountable to God and cannot justify their behavior. This idea is developed throughout *Scripture* and has much to say about the relationship between God and humanity.

Our role in judging others

In today’s society, judging others has become more common and normal. Thanks to social media and polarized opinions, judging others has become commonplace.

However, *Romans 2:1* challenges us to consider our attitude toward others. If we are willing to judge others, we must be willing to face the same criticism and judgment.

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> All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.
>
> *— Romans 2:12*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: judgment, hell, law, punishment, sin

Interpretation:
Before Jesus Christ:

Having spoken of the difference between the executors of the will of God, the Apostle also points out the difference in the judgment upon them. Some are Jews who have received the Law and have learned from it the will of God, and will be judged according to the same Law, while others are pagans who have not received the Law and who have lived outside its guidance, and will be judged outside the Law, that is, not according to the written Law, or the Jewish Law, but according to the Law of conscience (natural).

After the coming of the Lord Savior:

Here we are dealing with the question of what to do with people who have not heard the Gospel. And what about those who live in places where the Bible is unknown? These people will be judged

according to the Law of conscience (natural). God judges people not by what they do not know, but by what they know.

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> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
>
> — *Romans 6:23*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: judgment, Eternal life, hell, reward, sin

Interpretation:
Romans 6:23 mentions the *“wages of sin,”* which means that if we sin, there will be negative consequences. The writer of Romans is thus warning us about the consequences that sin can bring.

What is sin?

Before we delve into this verse, it is important to understand what sin is. Sin is any action that is contrary to the will of God. That is, anything we do that disobeys what God has said in the Bible is considered sin. It is important to remember this because it allows us to understand what the writer of this verse means.

Wages of sin

The *“wages of sin”* are the consequences we suffer for the bad things we do. This means that as a result of our sins, we will have to face death. However, this death does not necessarily mean physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God.

God's gift

In *Romans 6:23* he goes on to say, *"but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* That is, although we deserve to die for our sins, God offers us eternal life through *His Son Jesus*.

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translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.
>
> *— Romans 8:1-2*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: judgment, freedom, hell, law, punishment, Redeemer

Interpretation:
Romans 8:1-2 is a powerful statement because it shows that those who are *in Christ Jesus* are not subject to condemnation. Sin separates us from God, and if we cannot be freed from the guilt associated with sin, we cannot be freed from its consequences—death. However, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross frees us from sin and death, and this allows us to live a new life of freedom.

Those who are in Christ Jesus

These verses also teach us the importance of being in Christ Jesus. Those who are in Christ Jesus do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. This means turning away from sin and seeking the guidance of the *Holy Spirit* in our lives. The Holy Spirit is the one who helps us live according to the will of God, and when we walk in the Spirit, we experience freedom and peace.

The law of the Spirit of life

It is important to understand that in the context of Romans, the *"law"* refers primarily to the *law of Moses* or the ancient law that was designed to teach the way to God and reveal the holiness of God. However, this law could not save anyone because no one could keep it completely.

On the other hand, the law of the Spirit of life refers to the work of the *Holy Spirit* in our lives that enables us to submit to the will of God and live in freedom and victory over sin.

Liberation from the law of sin and death

In Christ Jesus, we are freed from the power of sin and death. The old law could not save us, but the work of Jesus on the cross and the coming of the *Holy Spirit* gave us a freedom we never had.

We can now keep God's commandments not out of obligation, but out of love for Him and the life He has given us. Instead of living under the yoke of sin and death, we can live in the freedom and fullness

of life that God has promised.

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