

11. All of us must stand alone before the Evaluation Tribunal of Christ. All of us hope that this event could occur any day now. In case not, we have some time to prepare for a more honorable presentation once it does.
12. In James 2:12, the apostle indicates that believers should be applying doctrine as those who are about to receive judgment based on the law of freedom.
13. The judgment is the Evaluation Tribunal of Christ. The law of freedom has to do with the fact that believers function and operate in an environment of freedom based on the fact that our volition is free.
14. We are free agents with regard to our decision-making capacities. We prepare our volition to acquire guidance from the Word of God, recall that information in our decision-making processes, and pull that volitional trigger to put our thoughts into action.
15. Volition is a part of the soul. It is our system of making decisions. The decisions we make are the result of freedom and when we make them we do so under the law of freedom.
16. Put another way, we are personally responsible for our own decisions! Nobody else is. We must therefore get it through our heads that when we make decisions, they are our own and we must take responsibility for them.
17. An extremely high inventory of biblical ideas should be the inventory you seek to accumulate in order to best function under the law of freedom.

James 2:12 In light of these things, keep on speaking or communicating and keep on applying just as those who are about to receive judgment by the law of freedom. (EXT)

James 2:13 For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. (NASB)

1. This verse begins in the English translation with a dire warning that serves as a heads-up for those who are impressed with their exploits in the production of human good.
2. The verse indicates that justice will judge the one “who has shown no mercy to others” in time. This is a disconcerting statement since it inspires a frantic inventory of one’s decisions to recall times he has “shown no mercy” to others.
3. This is a matter of great concern, but after we break it down exegetically and doctrinally, we will discover that there is a lot of divine mercy available to those who orient to the full meaning of the verse.



4. The verse begins by placing emphasis on the principle developed in verse 12. In that verse we find ourselves appearing before the Lord at His Evaluation Tribunal.
5. The issue before the court is not about personal sins of assembled Church-Age believers, that problem was resolved at the cross, but with the production of divine good as opposed to human good and evil in the earthly life of each individual.
6. Throughout human history, members of the human race have functioned within the boundaries of freedom by means of their volition, also referred to as “free will.”
7. At the point of parturition, “the action of giving birth to an offspring,” biological life, produced by parental genetics, is selected for human life by the divine imputation of soul life to biological life.
8. The soul of every individual contains the following attributes:
 1. **Self-consciousness:** Man is aware of his own existence: “conscious of one’s own acts or states as belonging to or originating in oneself: aware of oneself as an individual.”
 2. **Mentality:** Mental power or capacity: intelligence; mode or way of thought: (a) **νοῦς (noús):** Receptive comprehension: intelligent understanding and (b) **καρδία (kardía):** Perceptive comprehension: the sphere of God’s influence in life from resident doctrine. (See 1 Corinthians 2:6–16)
 3. **Volition:** The power to decide: make decisions and commit overt actions: the act of making a choice or decision; the power of choosing; free will. Volition is challenged by each imperative mood.
 4. **Conscience:** Norms and standards: Consciousness of the moral goodness or blameworthiness of one’s own conduct, intentions, or character together with the obligation to do right; conformity to the dictates of conscience.⁶ (See 1 Timothy 1:19)

NOTE: Emotion is not a part of soul essence but the result of soul function. The soul can produce good or bad emotions, the former from the stream of consciousness or the latter from the sin nature.

(End JAS2-701 See JAS2-72 for continuation of study at p. 711.)

⁶ Definitions partially drawn from *Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed. (2003), s.vv. “self-consciousness,” “mentality,” “volition,” “conscience.”



9. This cooperative action by man and God introduces another potential witness for the Prosecution in the resolution of the Angelic Conflict.
10. From soul essence we are able to conclude that human volition is free, it is under the control of the resident inventory of ideas present in the mentality of the soul in coordination with the norms and standards contained in the conscience.
11. Put simply, all human beings, regardless of gender, race, or language are free agents, a sports term that refers to athletes who are not under contract to any organization and therefore may freely sign with any team offering him or her a contract.
12. In the Christian way of life, there are several ways free agents may choose to function. Individuals in every gender, race, and language are free agents and may use their volitions to choose his or her religion. History has provided a wide variety of ideologies from which one may freely choose.
13. In competition with them is the antireligious faith of Christianity. All religions are founded, developed, and sustained by doctrinal statements that promote human good and evil.
14. Christianity is not a religion but rather a personal relationship with Jesus Christ established by faith alone in Him alone.

Hebrews 12:2 Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
15. Therefore, if believers by definition function as free agents under the “law of freedom” in James 2:12, then at the Evaluation Tribunal they will be held responsible for using that freedom to produce human good and evil.
16. As already stated, sins were judged at the cross, but the works of human good and evil were not. These must be dealt with and for believers these works will be addressed and dealt with at the Evaluation Tribunal.
17. On the subject of human good and evil, we have recently observed that at the Great White Throne, following the destruction of the universe (2 Peter 3:10–13), the evidence that will result in all unbelievers being incarcerated in the lake of fire will be the Books of Works that document their worthless production of human good and evil (Revelation 20:11–15).

18. Therefore, James 2:13 continues with the subject of the Royal Law, the issue of mental attitude sins in association with overt sins, and the principle of the Law of Freedom.
19. If we are free, and we have established that we are, then there is a Law of Freedom: we are all held responsible for our sins in time which are managed by rebound.
20. However, human good and evil were not judged on the cross, therefore since we are responsible for them, they must be evaluated, an issue that will be resolved at the Evaluation Tribunal of Christ.
21. And when that analysis begins, each believer's production will be put to the test to determine if they produced divine good as opposed to those which produce human good and evil:

1 Corinthians 3:11 There is no foundation on which to build other than the one that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

v. 12 Now if any believer keeps on building upon this foundation: gold [deity], silver [redemption], precious stones [fruits of the Holy Spirit], wood [human good], hay [energy of the flesh], straw [from the source of sinful motivations],

v. 13 each one's work shall become manifest; for that day [the Evaluation Tribunal] shall declare it because it shall be revealed in the fire, for the fire shall assay each one's production of what quality it is.

v. 14 If any man's production abides which he has built thereon, he shall receive a reward [conveyance of his escrow blessings].

v. 15 If any man's production shall be burned, he will suffer loss [no conveyance of his escrow blessings]; but he himself shall be delivered [doctrine of eternal security], yet through fire. (EXT)

22. Verse 13 continues on this subject beginning with the noun "judgment": **κρίσις (krisis)**: "the legal process of judging; the activity of the Messiah as Judge," specifically at the Evaluation Tribunal.