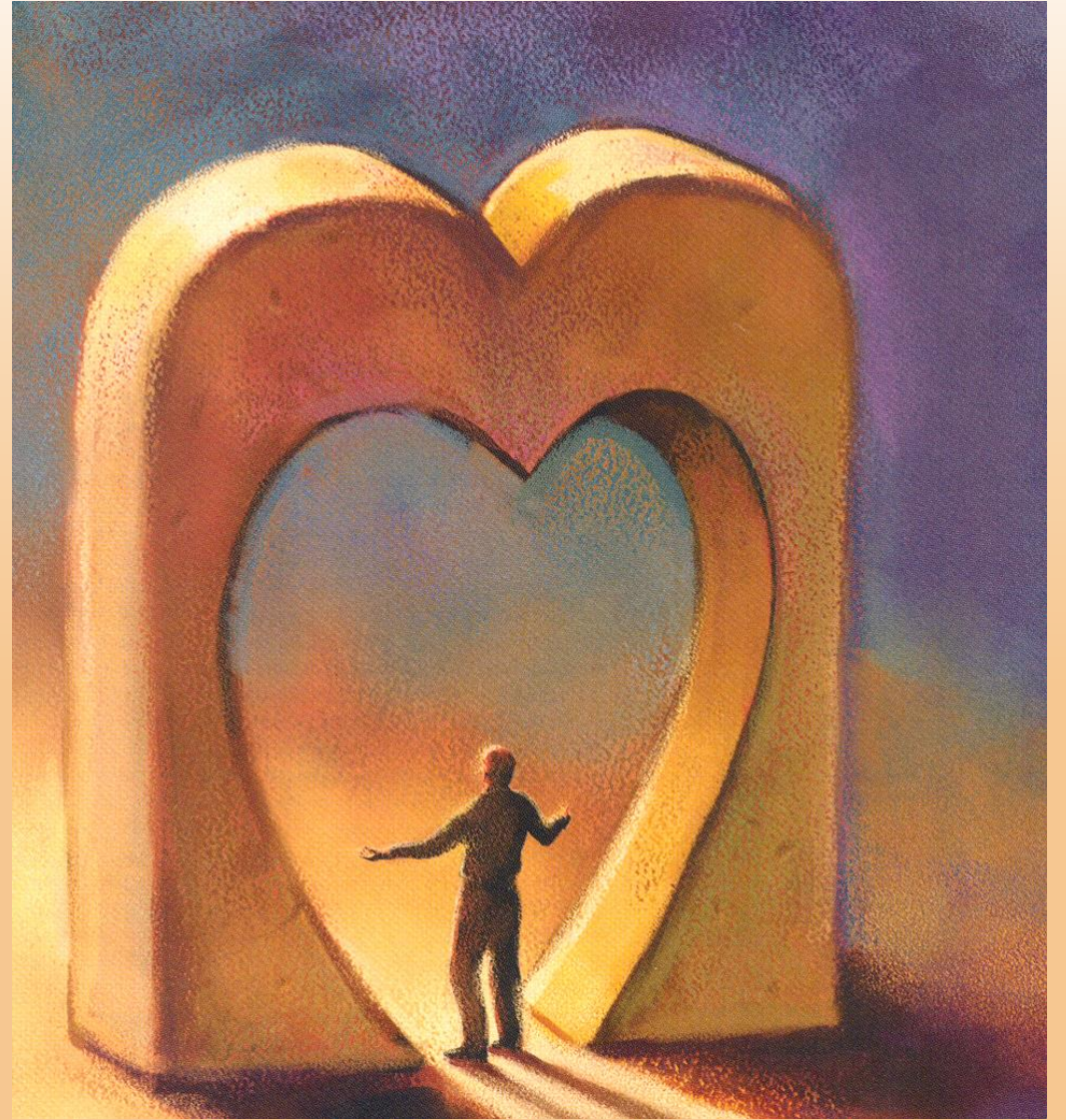


Love and the Law

James 2: 13



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

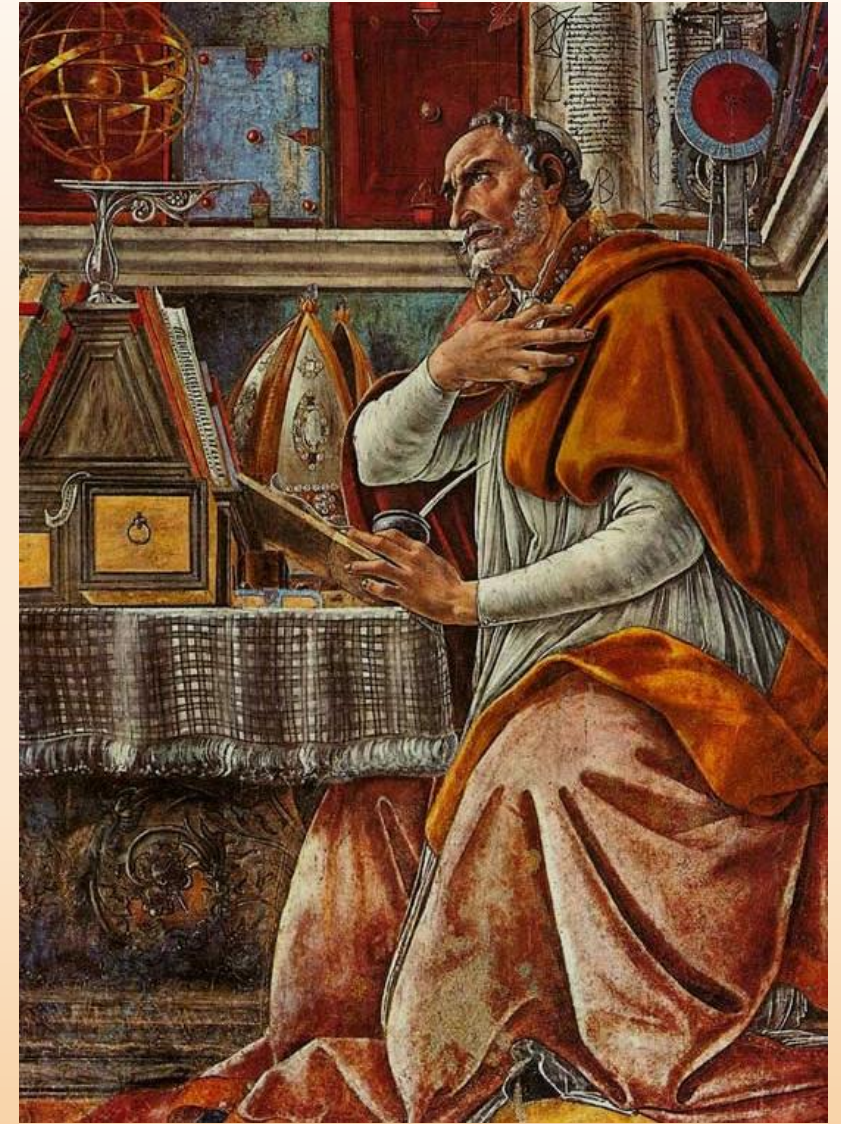


I. God's Mercy and His Judgment



“When we speak of the day of God's judgment, we add the word last or final, because even now God judges, and has judged from the beginning of human history.”

Augustine, City of God, Book XX, Chapter 1, par. 2.



God is always the same. He is always loving and always righteous. This is why we have a permanent expression of His love and of His righteousness in human history. This is why we have also 'partial exams' as well as a 'final exam' at the end, where God will "give to every one according to his work." (Revelation 22: 12). All of these 'exams' demonstrate the immensity and the supremacy of God's love.



Michelangelo, Christ in the Last Judgment,
Sistine Chapel, 1536-1541

Those who want to have access to heaven and to pass through the judgment time with the certitude of salvation need to allow God to accomplish His work in their life. He will give

1. the sense of belonging to His love through the message of Creation;
 2. the new life through the action of His grace, and
 3. the experience of His power through the ministry of the Holy Spirit who will produce the works that God prepared in advance for His children.
- (Ephesians 2: 10)

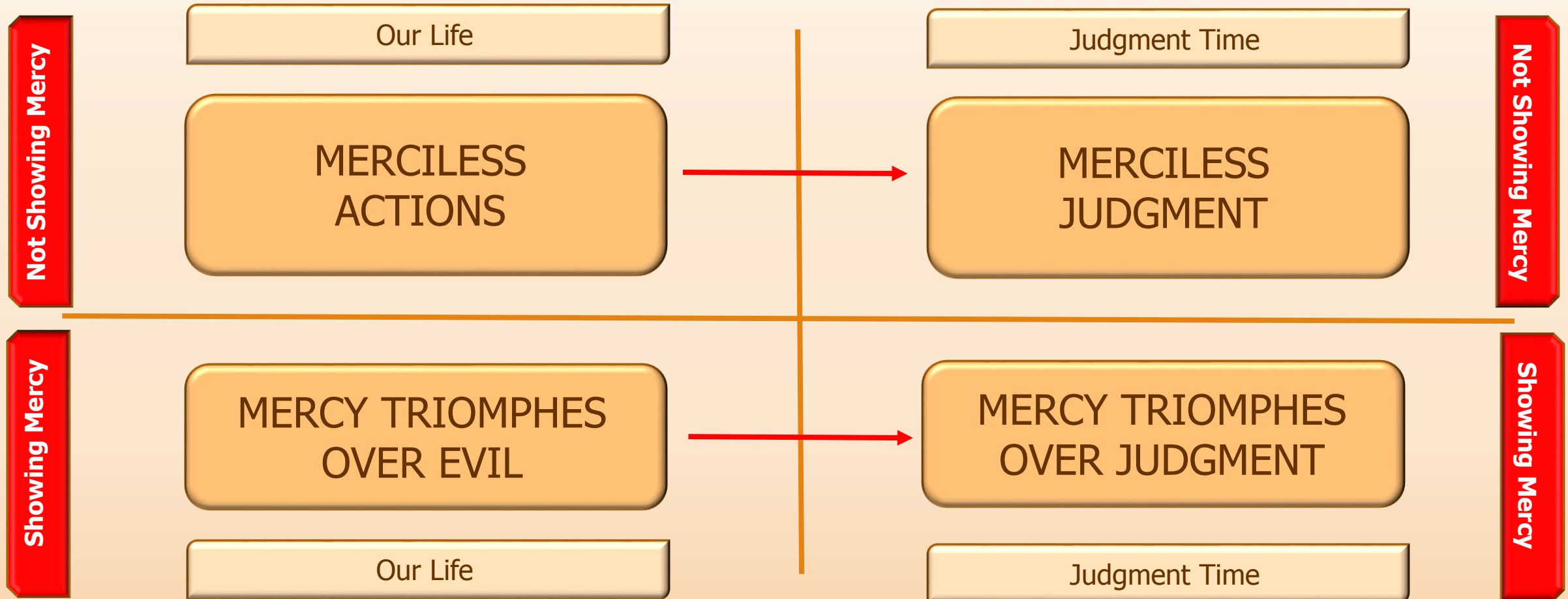


JAMES 2: 13

	During My Life	Judgment Time
ME without God	Sometimes Mercy Sometimes my own interests, pleasures, desires	"No mercy to those who didn't show mercy" James 2: 13
ME with God	Christ living in Me can only show Mercy	"No condemnation for those who are in Jesus Christ" Romans 8: 1

* It is possible that those who declare being without God produce works inspired by the source of a true, sacrificial, agape love. They are just confirming that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning." (James 1: 17.) They are also validating the concept of the apostle Paul, who affirmed that those "not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them." (Romans 2: 14. 15) In addition, no one without God can produce in all circumstances good works on his own. If not, the text of Romans 3: 23 would not be correct. We are all sinners and it is only through God's initiative that we produce actions of love.

JAMES 2: 13



Our mercy in all circumstances is the work of God, and not the contribution of human beings, mortal and imperfect.



“The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago – a revelation of Christ. A great work of reform is demanded, and it is only through the grace of Christ that the work of restoration, physical, mental, and spiritual, can be accomplished.”
Ellen G. White, The Ministry of Healing, p. 143.



II. Our Mercy



We will always show mercy, we will go the extra mile for our neighbor, because we follow Jesus. The Good Samaritan did even more than anybody would expect.

“No one would remember the Good Samaritan if he’d only had good intentions. He had money as well.”
Margaret Thatcher



“God’s mercy with a sinner
is only equalled and
perhaps outmatched by
His patience with the
saints, with you and me.”
Alan Redpath



“To be a Christian means
to forgive the inexcusable
because God has forgiven
the inexcusable in you.”
C. S. Lewis



“Evil-speaking is the more difficult to be avoided, because it frequently attacks us in disguise. We speak thus out of a noble, generous, (it is well if we do not say,) holy indignation, against these vile creatures! We commit sin from mere hatred of sin! We serve the devil out of pure zeal for God! It is merely in order to punish the wicked that we run into this wickedness. "So do the passions" (as one speaks) "all justify themselves," and palm sin upon us under the veil of holiness!”

John Wesley, The Cure of Evil-Speaking



“Human weakness is apparent in the strongest of men. The best are but erring mortals, and one should not feel at liberty to sit in judgment upon the motives or actions of his brethren. Charity, which is so much lacking, is yet very essential in this age of the world. God would have his ministers, and every soul connected with his work in these sacred institutions, show marked respect and love for one another; in honor, preferring one another. Ellen G. White, The Judgment, p. 30.

We always promote the Biblical truth but we don't judge people.

"Even God doesn't propose to judge a man till his last days, why should you and I?" Dale Carnegie



III. The Merciless Judgment for whom?

“The most miserable
prison in the world is the
prison we make for
ourselves when we
refuse to show mercy.”
Warren Wiersbe



Love and the Law

James 2: 13

