



**Study Notes – December 3, 2023**

**First Sunday of Advent**

***“Judgment is without mercy...Mercy triumphs over judgment”***

**James 2:10-13**

V 10: We are required to *keep the whole, royal law according to the Scripture (2:8)*, for it is a complete summary of how God intends us to live – in a word, “love” by suffering joyfully, serving diligently, sacrificing faithfully for others.

V 11: *He who said... is our Lord Jesus Christ (2:1)*. He requires us to love as He loves. To *transgress the law* by showing partiality is to violate Jesus, the One who loves, who gave the Law and He alone fulfills it (Mt 5:17-22, 27-28).

V 12-13a: We will be *judged by the law of liberty* based on our words and actions (cp 2:8,10; 1:25). *Our Lord Jesus Christ* is the *liberty of the law*, but He does judge us, not merely if we give “intellectual assent to His death and resurrection but also whether our life demonstrates that we hold to His example of faithful obedience rooted in love (2:1).

V 13b: *Mercy triumphs/exults over judgment*. That is the Good News of hope and promise: *in the fullness of the time...God sent forth His Son [our Lord Jesus Christ], born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law [us]....* Our Savior was judged for us in death and burial, but then He, Mercy, arose, boasting over judgment.

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