

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MAR 13TH - 14TH, 2021 // BOOK OF ROMANS

### JUDGMENT (ROMANS 2:1-11)

#### WHAT PAUL IS AND IS NOT SAYING IN CHAPTER 2

Paul is not saying that we're saved by our works, there are multiple ways to be saved, or all people are equally responsible for the truth.

- **Paul is saying that increased knowledge brings more responsibility, we are judged by our works, and God's standard for judgment is the same for everyone.**

#### HYPOCRISY AND SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS (V1)

For us to use the Bible to judge if one's actions are right or wrong is not incorrect to do (Jn. 7:24), but when we judge people by a standard that we don't uphold ourselves, we become self-righteous hypocrites (Mt. 7:1-3).

- **Ultimately Jesus is the Judge, but we are to use what He deems good to set the standard of how we live.**

#### WE MUST ALSO AVOID PREJUDICE

Making righteous judgments includes going further than just sizing up the appearance of someone. God doesn't judge us by the external, but by the state of our heart (1 Sam. 16:7) and we're to do the same.

- **Jesus judges us by the truth, our works, and by the level of understanding that we have received.**

#### GOD DOESN'T TOLERATE JUDGMENTALISM

Those that prejudge or are hypocritical in their judgment will not "escape God's judgment." When we act in prejudice and hypocrisy we essentially "despise the richness of his kindness."

- **Fortunately, in God's "restraint and patience," He gives us time to repent for our sin before we incur His wrath.**

#### "HE WILL REPAY...ACCORDING TO [THEIR] WORKS"

Not only will God hold into account the evils we talked about in ch. 1, but He will also hold into account the judgmental and hypocritical.

- God uses His truth as the lens to reward good and punish evil. The reward is a result of following Jesus, the **punishment is a result of "self-seeking," "disobeying the truth," and "unrighteousness."**

#### NOT SAVED BY, NOR SAVED FROM

We are not saved by the good things we do. The only real work we can do in our salvation process is search for the truth and accept it when we find it.

- Though we're saved "by grace through faith" (Eph. 2), **we're also called to demonstrate God's grace in our lives by "working out" that salvation with actions that honor God.**

#### "FOR THERE IS NO FAVORITISM WITH GOD"

It doesn't matter the color, economic status, gender, or nationality of a person because God doesn't play favorites. God gives "glory, honor and peace" to all people who humble themselves and follow His lead.

- **The Cross is the great equalizer of humanity. Anyone from anywhere can have a relationship with the Creator.**

#### THE LAW (ROMANS 2:12-16)

##### GOD IS JUST

God not only judges by truth and works, He also takes into consideration the knowledge one has received.

God's righteousness won't allow Him to hold people accountable for what they've never possessed.

- Choosing to be ignorant isn't an option. **All people should seek truth, but not all people have access to the depths of it like we do.**

#### BUT, WE ARE ALL "WITHOUT EXCUSE"

We learned in 1:20 that nature alone should at least cause us to acknowledge that there is something greater than humanity, so we are without excuse to know there is a God.

- Everyone will at least be held accountable by the evidence in our created world. **The real question is if we are seeking truth or just seeking our selfish desires?**

#### THE PROBLEM IN THINKING WE ARE BETTER

The Jews in Paul's day believed they were closer to God because they knew more about Him than the Gentiles. The problem is that they didn't live out the knowledge they possessed.

- Paul echoes what James would eventually write as well, **"the hearers...are not righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be justified."**

#### LET'S ZOOM INTO OUR DAY AND AGE

In America we not only have access to the written Word, but we can get it in multiple versions and various formats. If we are held accountable to the access of knowledge available to us, by what severe degree will our people be judged?

- **We have been given much. What are we doing with it?**

#### "...WRITTEN ON THEIR HEARTS"

Though the Gentiles didn't have access to the Old Testament, they did have a conscience given to them by God that "writes" morality into how we live.

- So, even though many people don't have access to the Bible, they will be held accountable by the "law written on their hearts."

#### SURGERY (ROMANS 2:17-29)

##### ARE WE LIVING BY THE STANDARD WE TEACH?

Paul was a Jew and knew the strengths of being raised knowing the Law: 1) The truth started with the Jews. 2) The law guided the people of God. 3) The law revealed the will of God. 4) It showed the correct way to live.

- **Though they should've been humbled by knowing the truth, they became arrogant and didn't follow what they knew to be right.**

##### REMEMBER, WE ARE HELD RESPONSIBLE

The assets people have by knowing the truth must be held in balance with the greater liability of that knowledge.

- **We can't teach without being taught, tell others to not sin while we sin, preach against idols while we put things above God, and brag about truth when we don't live it.**

##### HYPOCRISY BLEMISHES THE REPUTATION OF GOD

Paul says we, "dishonor God by breaking [His] law," and as a result the ability to teach the truth to non-believers becomes impossible.

- **For those of us that know better, we need to repent from sin and honor God in how we live, not just for ourselves but for the sake of people around us knowing the truth.**

##### THE TRUE SIGN OF A CHRISTIAN

Paul says, "Circumcision benefits you if you observe the law, but if you are a lawbreaker your circumcision has become uncircumcision."

- Paul is saying that God doesn't judge us by our outward appearance but by the state of our heart. **We can look the part, but if we don't have a genuine relationship with Jesus we cannot be saved.**

##### THE "CIRCUMCISION...OF THE HEART"

Paul says, "On the contrary, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly." This means that we are true followers of God because of the transformation on the inside.

- It is not religious action that makes us a Christian. We can go to church, tithe, and serve, **but we have to allow Jesus to do a spiritual surgery on our hearts.**

##### "...NOT FROM PEOPLE BUT FROM GOD."

One of our biggest problems is that we seek the affirmation of people more than the approval of God. Pursuing the things of God may not always garner the praise of people.

- If we are honest, **do we seek to gain favor and acceptance from people more than we strive to honor the teachings of the Bible?**

##### LIVING LARGE ON THE OUTSIDE...

We are a people that have become masters of selling the product of self. The world creates a façade that makes others believe that they're something they're not.

- This façade has infiltrated the Christian community. We often wear religious masks that hide us from the honest introspection of our sin and brokenness.

##### ...BUT VERY SMALL ON THE INSIDE.

This façade has created a people that are drowning in depression, fear, shame, guilt, and sin.

- Because of our unwillingness to seek the truth, lay down the mask, and do what God approves of instead of others, we not only remain broken, we will be separated from God forever!

##### TAKING AN HONEST INVENTORY

- Have we become judgmental people that compare ourselves to others?
- Do we believe we are favored by God more than other people?
- Do we believe that our works earn our salvation, or do we know that it is only by God's grace through faith?

##### WE CANNOT DO THIS UNDER OUR OWN POWER.