

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

MARCH 14TH, 2021 // BOOK OF ROMANS

JUDGEMENT (ROMANS 2:1-4)

JUDGEMENT FOR ALL

No one can escape judgement. There are two kinds of people in the world, Gentiles and Jews. There is no exception, all are unrighteous. Gentiles have violated the law written on their heart, while Jews have violated the law given to them by God.

- **Nobody is good enough on our own.**

THE WAY WE JUDGE

Too often we find ourselves being angry about the sin in others and we have sin in our lives. Look closely at our own lives. **We need to speak out against sin, but we have to do so in humility.** (Matt. 7; 1 Cor. 5:11-12) This isn't about us being better than anyone else, it's about recognizing we all have a need for reconciliation and restoration.

THE WAY GOD JUDGES

What was just read in Paul's letter made his listeners agree. But this would've turned a few heads. Jews knew they were the chosen people. But Paul says, "You have no excuse. You are just as bad!"

- **All of us must depend totally on God's grace. Any sin is enough to lead us to depend solely on Jesus Christ for salvation.**

HE'S POSTPONING HIS JUDGEMENT

- God is holding back His judgement. Don't mistake God's patience for His approval of wrong doing. It's His kindness that should lead us to repentance. Self-evaluation is hard, but we need to allow God to point out our sin so we can repent.
- God views us all the same, there is no one who is less sinful than another.

GOD'S JUDGEMENT IS RIGHT

Paul issues a warning to those who think they are not guilty of sins. Hypocrisy is contempt for the riches of His kindness and patience. **God's kindness is not careless in a failure to see sin, but careful to lead us toward repentance.** We are often more amazed at God's patience with others than humbled at His patience with us.

EVALUATION (ROMANS 2:4-16)

I DON'T WANT WHAT I'M OWED

God is judging rightly on the basis of what we've done. The issue here isn't salvation-it is how God evaluates all people on the basis of truth, works and light. God shows no favoritism when He judges. Salvation is always by faith, not by works. (Eph. 2:8-9)

- **The truth is I don't think I deserve the wrath of God.**

AN EVALUATION OF WORKS

We have to be careful here. The issue isn't salvation, and I don't want confusion. Paul isn't contradicting himself. This wrath is being revealed as people are given over to increasingly sinful practices (Rom. 1:24 - 28). Again, He's postponing His judgement, but a day is coming where everyone will be judged for what we have done.

GOOD DEEDS DON'T SAVE US

We are not saved by good deeds, but when we believe and commit our lives fully to God, we want to please Him and do His will. Our good deeds don't save us, they're a response to what God has done, not a prerequisite to earn his grace.

- **We are not saved BY works, we're saved by faith to do good works (James 2:18).**

JUDGING BY THE LIGHT

People aren't condemned for what they don't know, but for what they do with what they do know. God's righteousness will not allow Him to hold anyone accountable for what they don't possess. Since we all have knowledge of His eternal power and divine nature, we can be held accountable that the God of the bible is the creator of all things. (Rom. 1:19-20)

MORAL LAWS ARE AT PLAY

Those who've never seen a bible still know right from wrong. We violate the standards we create for ourselves. We know what's right but we insist on doing wrong. We must admit we fail to live up to our own standards, much less the standards of God. It's not enough to know what's right; we must do it.

- **We suppress the truth (Rom. 1:25).**

SPECIAL TREATMENT (ROMANS 2:17-28)

PAUL KNOWS HOW THEY THINK

Don't forget - Paul was once a self-righteous Jew himself. He addresses the fact they think they have special privileges and brag about being chosen. At one time he thought the same way. He gives his pedigree in Phil. 3 and then describes how it's of no value.

- **Obeying the will of God is more important than knowing the will of God.**

THEY WERE CHOSEN

After all, they are Jews. But the argument Paul is making is that we all stand guilty before God. No one is privileged because of status, where we were born or because we're chosen.

- **We can't get to heaven or put ourselves in right relationship with Jesus based on our upbringing or where we live.**

LIVING BY A DIFFERENT SET OF RULES

We all live by the same set of rules. The Jews were happy to require others to obey the law, yet they weren't even keeping it themselves. Sound familiar? In trying to teach others and hold them accountable they should've been teaching themselves.

- **Too often we require people to clean themselves up before they come to Christ.**

DO WHAT I SAY, NOT WHAT I DO

They preached against stealing, but stole. They preached against adultery, but committed adultery. They bragged about the law, but then dishonored God by breaking it. This is the epitome of hypocrisy. (Matt. 7).

- Before we accuse others, we must look at ourselves and see if any sin exists in us.

WE ARE HIS EXAMPLES

- If we claim to be a Jesus follower our lives have to be a representation of Him. (Rom. 12) The Jews were causing the Gentiles to blaspheme God.
- Our influence on others is powerful. When we disobey God, we dishonor His name and may cause others to blaspheme His name because they're watching our lives. (Phil. 4:9)

OUR ACTIONS HAVE TO MATCH OUR WORDS

Christ-followers look like Christ. If you claim to be a follower of Jesus, your life should look like His. This is why we can't live the same way we once lived. We put sin to death. (Col. 3) We are a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). We're no longer slaves to sin. We have to quit the sin business (Rom. 6; Heb. 12).

A SIGN OF THE COVENANT

Circumcision was the "sign of the covenant" between Abraham and his descendants. Every man was circumcised as a sign they would follow all the stipulations of the covenant. (Gen. 17) Paul is trying to help them understand that isn't the end of their journey.

- **Circumcision means nothing if we disobey God's law.**

THE EMPHASIS IS ON THE INTERNAL

Whether you were a Jew or Gentile we receive God's love and approval by keeping His commands.

Paul states a real Jew is not one who's circumcised (outward) but someone whose heart is right with God (inward).

- **We can look, act and sound like we're a Christian but not have a relationship with Christ at all.**

GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS

Attending church, being baptized, getting confirmed, or attending Following Jesus isn't enough, just as submitting to circumcision wasn't enough for the Jews. God desires our heartfelt obedience and devotion.

- Our relationship with Jesus can't just be a bunch of 'dos' and 'don'ts'.

TAKING AN ASSESSMENT

- How's your heart?
- Do we judge the sin in others and justify the sin in our own lives?
- How faithful are we to what we possess?
- Are you just going through the motions?
- God evaluates our spirituality internally. Do you need a heart transplant?