

Rom 203 - **Judged by Judging - Rom 2:1-16**

In our last msg - **Rom Ch 1** established
the **Guilt** of our **Sin** - & the **Justice** of God's **Wrath**

But the Holy Spirit **isn't quite finished** establishing
the **critical fact** - of the depth & breadth of our sin

The **book of Romans** is the **Crown Jewel** -
because of its incredible presentation

of how we are "**Made Right**" w/ God - THRU our Faith Alone

& that **Salvation message** is coming - - -
but it **cannot come** out of order - ***or before its time***

First - we must see ourselves - **in a correct Light**
before we can see our need - to be "**Made Right**" w/ God

& **If we refuse** to see ourselves as "**having done wrong**"
Then we will refuse to see our need to "**Be Made Right**" with God

Before we can **receive** God's Free Gift of Salvation
we must clearly **see our need** for it

& **that's exactly** what **Rom Ch 2** does for us today

Let's Pray

Ch 1 has made it clear - that all men are without excuse - because

- 1)** They have **the capacity** to know God
but actively suppress that knowledge
- 2)** The **truth of God** has been made evident them,
yet man refuses to acknowledge God

Now - in **Ch 2** - The Holy Spirit makes it clear
that God has even written the knowledge of "right & wrong"
right into our own conscience

Proving again - that man will be Without excuse
on the day that God must judge sin

Rom 2:1 - ESV

1 Therefore you

Here in Ch 2, the Holy Spirit changes
from addressing the general population of sinners (as **Ch1**)
to - **YOU**, specifically - **YOU**

(again) Rom 2:1 - ESV → →

(again) **Rom 2:1 - ESV**

1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

We are without excuse - every one of us

For in passing judgment on another we condemn ourselves

The **GK word** used here for "**Passing Judgment**" means "***to determine right from wrong***"

Have you ever "**determined**"

that something - that someone else did - was **WRONG?**"

Of course you have - we all have

because we have an instinctive knowledge of Right & Wrong

It doesn't take the **10 commandments**

for us to know that Murder is wrong (or the other sins)

& there is **plenty of proof** that even people groups who have **never** had the Bible

know that Murder, Adultery, Stealing, Lying,

& even Dis-Honoring Parents - Are **ALL WRONG**

& What **V.1** is saying is - As soon as you say

that something - someone else has done - is wrong . . .

you are **PROVING** that you have the knowledge

of right & wrong - built right into your conscience

& **THAT** is the point of Paul's opening statement

If you know something's wrong - *by determining it in someone else*
then you've just become your own judge

Eugene Peterson - in his very loose paraphrase "***The Message***"

says this about Rom 2:1

***Every time you criticize someone, you condemn yourself.
It takes one to know one***

& that is exactly what this Vs is saying

you prove that you have the knowledge of sin
by being able to recognize sin in someone else

It takes one - to know one

NOW WAIT A MINUTE - you might say
"I don't commit Murder or Adultery"

OHH . . . Then you need to understand that
Jesus Christ elevated the physical **LAW** to the **SPIRITUAL**

In the **Sermon on the Mount (Mat CH 5)**

Jesus said - **HATING** someone
is the same **Spiritually** - as **MURDER**

& **LUSTING** after someone
is the same **Spiritually** - as **ADULTERY**

OK - how bout **LYING** . . . well, maybe I've told a **small lie**

OK - how about **STEALING**. . . well, maybe a fudged on my **taxes**

OK - how about **COVETING** . . . well, yah, **duh**, of course

What **Paul is saying** is - "you are just as big a sinner as anyone that you "judge" (determine) is sinning"

As the end of V.1 says

. . . because you, the judge, practice the very same things

The Word "SAME" here - means "Equal"

It means your sin - is "Just As Bad" - as theirs

AND - as **Rom 2:2** says

Rom 2:2 - ESV

2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things.

THIS - is the first HUGE STEP to **receiving** Salvation

We **must understand** that the **judgment** of God "Rightly Falls" on those who do such things

AND - **IF** the Judgment of God Rightly falls on "THEM", & I'm **just as much a sinner** as "THEM"

That means the Judgment of God must **Rightly Falls on ME!**
THAT'S RIGHT

& **THAT**, is the beginning point - of your Salvation

& **just in case**

we FAIL to make the "**Personal Connection**" here . . .

Rom 2:3 - ESV

3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?

Do you think you can "Determine" the Wrong that others do,
& somehow escape the Judgment of God yourself ??

Remember - ***it takes one to know one***

& if you can **point** at someone & say - "***Now THAT'S wrong***"
then you've got **3 fingers** pointing back at you

& **even** your **own fingers** acknowledge
you are **3 times** more guilty than they are

& so (*at the very least*) we are **equally deserving** of God's Judgment

as V.2 says;

the judgment of God rightly falls on those who do such things

Or **did you think** that God would somehow "Overlook" your wrongs
because they're really **not that bad** ??

& that's **Paul's question** for us - in the **next Vs**

Rom 2:4 - ESV → →

Rom 2:4 - ESV

4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

**God loves you so incredibly much
that He is KIND, FORBEARING, & PATIENT**

**God's "Kindness" is displayed
in His "Forbearance & Patience" toward us**

But **in** His Kindness - Forbearance - & Patience
God **CANNOT** (ultimately) "**Overlook your sin**"

Because **if** he overlooks **Even ONE SIN**
then he **cannot be** a Perfectly Holy - Just - & Righteous God

& so (in His Kindness) He gives us His "Forbearance"
which means "To tolerate for a time"
to hold back (for a time) what is justly deserved

That **does not mean** that God will **not** Judge sin
it means He's holding back His Judgment for a time

& again, in a similar word,
His Kindness is also displayed in His Patience

This word means Literally "to suffer long" (NKJ = longsuffering)

In His Kindness - God is "Tolerating for a time" & "suffering long"
with your sin - for **one reason** & one reason **ONLY**

as V.4 says

. . .to lead you to REPENTANCE

God must Judge your sin

But in His Kindness, Forbearance, & Longsuffering

He is doing all He can - to lead you to repentance

& to receive His Free Gift of Forgiveness in Jesus Christ

Saving You from the Judgment that MUST come upon your sin

But pls - don't presume His love for you has

let you "off the hook" - - It hasn't

it is meant to lead you to Repentance & to Salvation

But many of us are so full of Pride & Self-Focus

that our hearts have become Hard & Un-Repentant

even in the light of God's incredible Love

& as we've already said - ***there is a day coming***

when God's Wrath MUST EITHER

fall on Jesus Christ in your place - - or it must fall upon YOU

Rom 2:5- ESV → →

Rom 2:5- ESV

5 But because of your hard and impenitent [unrepentant] heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

God's wrath **MUST** come
but it **does not** have to come upon **you**

If it does - it is because

you have 'stored up' that wrath **FOR YOURSELF**
because of your Hard & Unrepentant heart

This Phrase - - "storing up wrath"

pictures a **Miser**, who hoards every thing he's ever owned

he hoards every little piece of **God's Wrath** for His sin
& he tucks it all away . . .

saving it all - to come bursting out upon him - ***on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed***

If you can imagine God's Judgment for **EVERY ONE** of your sins
all **bursting out** upon you at once

Please hear me when I say

THAT is a moment - that you definitely want to **avoid**

& God has made only **One Way** for you **to avoid it**
by putting your Full **Faith** in Jesus Christ

HOWEVER - if you refuse God's gift of Salvation - God will allow you to pay the penalty for every one of your sins - yourself

Which is exactly what our next set of Vs's say

Now - **these verses** may seem to refer to "WORKS" as in "working for our salvation"

But Paul **clearly defines** how he uses this word WORKS so watch closely

Rom 2:6-8 - ESV

6 He will render to each one according to his works: [then, in v.7 he defines the "good works"]

7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;

8 [& then he defines bad works] but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

Paul is **talking about** the works of FAITH & OBEDIENCE here & the KEY PHRASE is - **What are you Seeking**

Because **God will render** to each one according to what he **SEEKS**

V.7 - to those who . . . seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life

V.8 - for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury

WHAT - are you seeking today ?

Are you seeking **God's Glory & Honor** - leading to Eternal Life ?

Are you **SELF-Seeking** - obeying unrighteousness - leading to Wrath ?

& then - **to make sure** we understand that
God's standard applies to every single person

The **next Vs's** go into an Incredible Comparison
to show that - no matter **WHO** we are (or who we THINK we are)

There is **NO partiality** with God
His **Righteous standard** is applied evenly to all mankind

Paul begins in **Vs's 9-10** - by saying the same thing
he just said in **Vs's 7-8** - only this time in reverse order

Rom 2:9-11 - ESV

9 There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, [see Eze 18.20]
10 but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.
11 For God shows no partiality.

The **ROOT WORD** for "Partiality" actually means "Countenance"
or "**to pay regard to one's looks**"

God does not **pay regard** - to the way you **LOOK**
For God shows no partiality

We are **all** on an Equal playing field - as **Sinners** - &

We are **all** on an Equal playing field
to Receive God's **Forgiveness** & God's **Righteousness**

But first - we must understand -

there is **NO PARTIALITY** in God's Requirement to Judge Sin

& so - Paul continues in **V.12**

Rom 2:12 - ESV

12 For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged [LIT - condemned] by the law.

This is a LOSE / LOSE situation

Those who sin **without** the law will Perish

those who sin **under** the law will be Condemned

Neither is good

ALL have sinned - either **without** the law - or **under** the law

& **the wages of sin is Death (Rom 6:23)**

Whether **without** the law or **with** the law

In our Sin - we are Already Condemned

Jn 3:18

18 Whoever believes in him [Jesus] is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already [Lit 'remains condemned'], because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Because of our sin - we are *already condemned*

Because God **MUST** Judge sin - Or He **Cannot** be God

whether **Outside** the law - or **Under** the law

The wages of sin is Death

& by the way - Even **IF** you did know **every word** of God's law
just **KNOWING** God's Law - Doesn't do anything for you

Rom 2:13 - ESV

13 For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.

We have a similar contrast in Jas 1:22 - ESV (show with v.13)

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Paul's focus here is NOT - *How do We Get Saved*

his focus is "*We are All condemned if we are not saved*"

he's **already shown** that those **without** the law

& those **with** the Law - are equally lost

& so he says - almost **hypothetically** (or - by way of contrast)

AS FAR AS the Law goes;

it's not the **HEARERS** of the law that will be justified

but the **DOERS** of the Law

What he does **NOT** say - is that it is possible

for someone to actually **BE** - a **DOER** of the Law

Not - at least - the **WHOLE** law

Jas 2:10 - NLT

10 For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws.

Hypothetically - if you could keep **EVERY ONE** of God's Laws **Perfectly** - your entire life - you **could be Justified** by the Law

But you **CAN'T** - & you **HAVEN'T**

Gal 3:10-11 - NLT

10 But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse, for the Scriptures say, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey ALL the commands that are written in God's Book of the Law."

11 So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law. For the Scriptures say, "It is through faith that a righteous person has life."

Paul is **not contradicting** what he wrote in **Galatians**

he's simply making a comparison

of Sinners who **DON'T** have the Law
& Sinners who **DO** have the Law

& he **continues this comparison** in **Rom 2:14**
of those **Without** the Law (Gentiles)
& those **Under** the Law (Jews)

Rom 2:14 - ESV → →

Rom 2:14 - ESV

14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law.

Notice - he says "***they are a law to themselves***"

Which means they have a law "Of Conscience" that Judges them

God has **written** His law of "Right & Wrong" on their conscience which "**accuses**" them - or may even "**excuse**" them

But **the point** is - they have the knowledge of Right & Wrong written on their hearts

Rom 2:15 - ESV

15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them

He's **NOT** saying that following this "Law of Conscience" can save them

He is saying that they are **as condemned** by their "Law of Conscience"

Just as the Jews are condemned by God's written law

The Holy Spirit's point here is;

No matter **WHO** you are

No matter **WHAT** law God has given you

Either way - ***YOU CAN'T LIVE UP TO IT***

Man **cannot** even live up to
his own "moral code of conscience"

How much less are we able to live up to
the Perfect, Holy, Righteousness - of God ?

This has been a **difficult text**
because it's about the Spiritual Logic of God's Judgment

BUT - If we Fail to Understand
that the Wrath of God Must come upon Sin

Then we will fail to Understand
how badly we need to put our Faith in Jesus Christ
in order to **escape** the Judgment - that **MUST** fall upon our sin

& I'd like to close with **Rom 2:16 out of the NLT**
because it's written as a complete thought

Rom 2:16 - NLT → →

Rom 2:16 - NLT

16 And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone’s secret life.

Paul **Sums Up** his point - & he says
I promise you - *there is a day coming*

When God, *thru Jesus Christ,*
WILL judge - every person's *secret life*

& **if we** are found **Without** Jesus Christ on that Day

then **God's judgment** for the secret sins of our life
must fall upon **us** !

& **without Christ** - we will be left - ***without a glimmer of hope***

The **Judgment of sin** - must either be *borne* by the **Sinner**
or it must be *taken* - by the **Savior**

May the Holy Spirit **shake us** - from our **SELF** delusion
May He **Expose us** - *to the Greatness* of our Sin

& may He **drive us**, in *repentance,*
to **Jesus Christ** - Who is the only one - ***who can save us***

Luk 19:10 - NLT

10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.

& the **Primary Purpose** - of the **first two Ch's** of Romans
is to prove to us all - **that We ARE Lost** without Christ

Let's Pray