

SALT Church

Romans 2:1-11

“Two Responses”

August 3, 2025

“The Greatest Book Ever Written”

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Recap:

- Last week we looked at the result of living a life of rebellion to God.
- It started out with the rejection of the knowledge of God.
 - We learned that this rejection could happen both within the believer and the non-believer.
 - For the non-believer it would be the complete rejection of what the Bible says about God.
 - For the believer it plays out in disobedience and ultimately the discipline of God.
 - Both are rejecting the truth about God.
- This rejection (for both believer and non-believer) eventually leads to the creation of a god of your desire.
 - **Idol worship.**
 - Worshipping the created rather than the Creator.
 - This plays out in power crystals, crystal balls, statues, and religious relics.
 - It also plays out in the worship of self, money, power, sex, and the accumulation of things.
- Once you reject the knowledge of God and ...

- Create a God of your own liking
- The natural progression is sexual sin
 - Why?
 - Because you have created a god that allows for anything to happen and especially sexual sin.
 - You justify it.
 - You reason it to not be that bad.
 - After all, who buys a car without test driving it 1st?
 - You justify it because something within you says that what you are doing is wrong.
 - But you continue in your sin because of this simple truth
 - ***You love your sin more than you love The One True God.***
 - You would never say that out loud.
 - But your life screams it every day that you choose to live in disobedience to Gods Word.
 - ***“Stop judging me, Pastor!”***
 - The word of God judges you, not me.
 - I didn’t write it, God did.
- Rejecting the knowledge of God leads to

- Creating a god in your own image which leads to
- Sexual sin which leads to the judgement of God which leads to
- The judgement of abandonment by God which is
 - God gives you over to the depraved mind.
 - And the depraved mind always completes its work.

We closed last week with these 21 sins that are the result of a depraved mind.

Romans 1:28-32

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; ²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² **who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.**

Five powerful verses that contain 21 sins that are clearly the fruit of someone that God has turned over to a depraved or debased mind.

With all of that in mind Paul continues with Romans 2

2 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

- What's the issue here?
- Is the issue the fact that someone is judging someone?
 - “Judge not lest ye be judged!” it's the battle cry of the sinner!
 - How many people have tattoo's that say, “Only God can judge me”
 - Let me reassure you, GOD ABSOLUTELY WILL JUDGE YOU!

Let's look at Matthew 7 since you brought it up.

Matthew 7:1-5

7 “Judge not, that you be not judged. ² For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.

- What is Jesus saying?
- Does Jesus really want a world where liars, thieves, rapist, and murderers go unchecked because a police officer and a judge can't or should not make judgements? (NO!)
- Nor does Jesus want a church family that doesn't love each other enough to speak into each other's life about the most destructive force known to mankind (sin).
 - In fact, Jesus lays out a system in Matthew 18 that says that if you suspect sin in a brother or sister life you go to them in private and talk to them.
 - Why?

- Because what you think you see may not be the truth.
- But if it is the truth, you speak truth into their life by telling them that the Bible speaks against their sin.
 - If they reject you and what the Bible says you go get two or three other people from the church body and you talk some more. ‘
 - If they refuse to confess and repent, Jesus says to turn them over to Satan.
 - In other words, you turn them over to their sin, in hopes that they will be made so miserable that they will be broken.

Now before you go through all of that you must talk to the Lord about your own life.

- Ask The Lord to reveal any sin in your life before you go talking to other folks about the sin in their life.
 - Make sure that you are not guilty of the sin that you are going to call out in their life.
 - WE NEED AND MUST HAVE ACCOUNTABLILITY WITHIN THE CHURCH.
 - This accountability must play out in love, grace, mercy, and in absolute truth.

Jesus continues in Matthew 7

³And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to

your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? ⁵ Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

So, what we have learned is that making judgements are a major part of the Christian life.

- But when we make those judgements, we must do it with truth, grace, and mercy because that is how God has dealt with us.
 - **Before we move back to Romans, I want to be clear.**
 - We never compromise the truth just because we have been guilty of the same sin in our past.
 - We always express the truth because we know the damage that our sin caused within us and therefore our love for the truth and people become the motivation for making a judgement.

Back to Romans 2

2 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

- It is clear to me that Paul is addressing the sin of hypocrisy.
 - It leads me to think that The Spirit of God had revealed this sin to Paul for he is writing to a church that he had never visited before.
- Perhaps this is a warning for all churches for it is so easy to fall into the trap of religion, judging others while being blind to our own sin.

- One thing is for certain, when we judge we reveal that we know the truth and knowing the truth then leaves us without an excuse.

² But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.

- Paul is referencing the 21 sins that the depraved mind gives itself over.
- And although God hands people over to their depraved mind it does not make Him responsible for their sin for, they rejected the knowledge of God and the truth of God long before they ever get to the point of being turned over to the depraved mind.
- Paul also reminded us that this is the pattern of those who live in rebellion to God and His Word.

○ Also pay attention to how verse two ends “**against those who practice such things**” meaning **those who continue in their sin.**

○ *Meaning they know the truth but continue to reject the truth.*

▪ *They love their sin more than they love God.*

³ And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?

- I believe that the judgement for a hypocrite is much worse than those who are guilty of the same sin.
- Why?

- Because in their hypocrisy, they clearly admit that they know the truth and they choose sin over God.
- This is why a Pastor who is caught in an adulterous affair can't recover his ministry after his fall.
 - It is a clear indication that he chose sin over truth.
 - He can be forgiven but I have never seen any pastor recover from an adulterous affair.

(Important side note)

- There are two reactions to the sin of hypocrisy from God.
- Verse 3 says there will be judgement for those who continue to practice in their sin.
- The other response is found in verse 4.

4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

- The 2nd response is grace and mercy through patience and longsuffering.
 - In other words, the judgement of God is put on hold in order to give us time to recognize our sin and repent.
- Can you imagine living in a world in which judgement was instantaneous?
 - I would have never made it beyond childhood much less my teen years, or any other year of my life.
- This is what Jesus was talking about in **Matthew 7**.

- Paul is saying the fact that God has been very patient with us should drive us to repentance.
- **I am so grateful that Facebook did not exist in my youth.**
 - That stuff stays out there forever!
 - I am so grateful for the extreme patience, grace, and mercy that God has poured out on me.
 - It is **HIS incredible patience** that drives me to repentance.
 - It is **HIS incredible love** that causes me to run to Him when I sin and not run from Him.
 - This is the difference between a child of God and a child of Satan.
 - Children of Satan run from God when they sin.
 - Children of God run to Him for forgiveness.

So, as we return to verse five, we keep in mind the two responses of God related to hypocrisy.

- Judgement
- Grace, mercy, with longsuffering

5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

- When we choose to be impenitent (refuse to repent) and harden our heart to God, **run from God instead of running to God when we sin**, Paul says that we are storing up wrath from a righteous God.

- Keep in mind that Paul is writing to a church, a pretty good church based upon what the world can see.
 - This leads me to believe that there are secret sins within the Roman church that threaten its very existence.
 - Or in the wisdom of Paul through the power of the Holy Spirit Paul understands the danger of pride that comes with being told “How great thou art”

**5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,
6 who “will render to each one according to his deeds”**

- Did you hear what God just said?
 - ***Our deeds matter***
 - ***Our deeds matter because they are the fruit of what is going on within our hearts.***
- Our words matter for the Bible says things like “the overflow of a man’s heart will spill out of his mouth”
 - If there is a sin that I consistently struggle with it is my mouth.
 - The same mouth that I proclaim the gospel with is the same mouth that justifies things that are said in anger and pride.
 - The struggle is real, and I expect to fight that battle until I am freed from this life.

Paul’s point and my point is that our deeds matter.

- You will not stand before the Lord and say “but I was baptized, said the prayer of salvation, was a member of SALT church” for the Lord will look into your heart and He will judge rightly.
- **In the same train of thought** you will not be able to point to deeds done for the Lord as justification for salvation.
- **How do I know?**

Matthew 7:21-23

*²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.** ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’*

Jesus will **“will render to each one according to his deeds”**.

- What will Jesus render according to his deeds?
 - Perfect, Holy Righteous judgement.
 - Matthew 7:21-23 are the scariest verses in the entire Bible.
 - WHY?
 - Because they are the words of the hypocrite.
 - They knew the truth.
 - They did religious things
 - But Jesus wasn’t fooled.

Here is the truth:

- Hypocrites do not want to be judged by the truth.
- Hypocrites want to be judged by the life that everyone sees.
 - But Jesus will judge the heart and all of the fruit that comes from that heart will also be judged based upon the motivation of the heart.
 - So, prophesying in Jesus' name
 - Casting out demons in Jesus' name
 - Performing miracles in Jesus' name
 - All mean nothing if you are living a lie.
 - Honestly as I look at that list it makes wonder if it all wasn't a show.
 - Clearly Jesus believes it was all fake!

Back to Romans 2

⁵ But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

⁶ who “will render to each one according to his deeds”

⁷ eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;

- Again, we see the grace of God and the longsuffering of God as He deals with His own.
- He knows this life is very difficult. (2 Timothy 3:12)
- The thing to remember is that the “**patient continuance in doing good**” is motivated by a pure heart that seeks to honor God and not self.

- The reward for the pure heart is “that they will see God” (Matthew 5)

⁸ but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, ⁹ tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;

- I want to bring us back to what we already know.
 - This letter was written to the Roman Church whose reputation was solid.
 - This was a church known for spreading the gospel.
 - This was a church that Paul longed to visit so that he could be encouraged.
 - So, why say these things, Paul?
 - Because Paul understood how quickly pride can turn into hypocrisy.
 - Because Paul understood how easily we can be distracted by kind words.
 - Because Paul knew the damnation that comes through good works done through an evil heart.

We close today with encouragement from Paul through the power of the Holy Spirit as He reminds us that there is hope and reward for those who walk with the Lord in humility and truth.

¹⁰ but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God.

There is a song that seems fitting today because it describes what the Lord has done for us.

I searched the world

But it couldn't fill me

Man's empty praise

And treasures that fade

Are never enough

Then You came along

And put me back together

And every desire

Is now satisfied

Here in Your love

Oh, there's nothing better than You

There's nothing better than You

Lord, there's nothing

Nothing is better than You

AMEN!