

THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD | ROMANS 2:1-16 | PASTOR MARK BOFILL | 08/25/24

I. Comprehending God's Righteous Judgment (2:1-4) | II. Consequences of God's Righteous Judgment (2:5-11) | III. Criterion for God's Righteous Judgment (2:12-16)

INTRO: In (1:18-32), the apostle Paul presented a deeply unpleasant picture of mankind and *his propensity for sin*, thus exposing the immorality of immoral pagans. We learned that *their rejection of God's natural revelation, even by creation, results in their just condemnation.* – The apostle now addresses the religious-moralists and self-righteous people, both Jewish and Gentile, by outlining a number of points that warrant **THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD.**

I. COMPREHENDING GOD'S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT (2:1-4) – READ

A. The Judgment PRINCIPLE (1) – The judgment of God is *based on TRUTH*, which exposes hypocrisy! Paul now exposes the person who is judging those in chapter one as horrible people, while committing the same sins himself.

1. Men that judge are Inexcusable (1a) – Paul's sub-points make clear that *nobody is ever in any position to declare that they are better than someone else.* – Men are INEXCUSABLE in two ways: a. Because *they judge;* b. and Because *they do the same* (1:29-32).

- Jesus addressed this in (tt. Matt 7:1-2) "*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.*" Many feel as if they have the right to judge, which often reveals their self-righteous mindset.

2. Men that judge Condemn Themselves (1b) – Jesus clarified this in (Matt 7:3-5) "*And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or 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 Hypocrites! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck out of your brother's eye.*" – We must remember that when we point the finger at other, we have three pointing back at ourselves.

3. Men that judge Practice The Same (1c) – This speaks of **HYPOCRISY** [*i.e., two faces*] – In (Rom 2:21-24), Paul hammers this truth later by specifically addressing the Jews! P/A – When men judge others, it is often because he himself is doing the same thing, and thus he becomes the critic. (*I have heard it said that 'the sins that we practice always look uglier on others'*)

B. The Judgment of God is TRUE (2) – A just God will punish those guilty of violating the moral laws.

1. Man must Know this (2a) – *i.e., that the judgment of God is according to a "Just standard"* – It is uncorrupted truth. – (Ps 9:7-8 KJV) declares. "*But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. 8 He shall judge the world in righteousness; And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness.*" – However, men suppressed the truth (Rom 1:18b), and this makes them even more accountable.

2. Man must Know who it is Against (2b) – True judgment is against "ALL" those who practice such things. – This can include everybody; [*i.e., all who are unrighteous, or self-righteous; male, or female; elderly, or youth!*] – The practices in view here are lawlessness and wickedness; things which are contrary to God's righteous standard. – (Rom 3:4a) says, ..."*let God be true but every man a liar...*"

C. The Judgment of others brings Accountability (3) – Man’s Assumption of Acquittal – The answer is rhetorically, **NO!** – However, some self-righteous would dare to argue this is vain. Because they too are **all guilty** (cf. Rom 3:23), it is impossible for them **“To Escape”** the Righteous Judgment of God! (cf. Col 3:6)

D. The Judgment of God is DESPISED (4) – Men hate God’s Righteous Characteristics (4a) – They know of his attributes (1:19) **but chose to despise** them because of the darkness in their hearts (1:20). To **Despise** = *lit.* means to think down upon and show contempt, scorn or disapproval... **ON GOD!** (wow!)

- **Goodness** – Common grace/kindness. God is infinitely good, and **no evil dwells in Him AT ALL!**
- **Forbearance** and **Longsuffering** – Speaks of His patience in judgment. [*I know He was patient with me!*]
- **Men Resist God’s plan (4b)** – To **REPENT**: the act of turning to Christ from sin, for salvation (2 Cor 7:9-11) – God, in His goodness *desires all men to repent, that they would be saved*; (1 Tim 2:4) – Sometimes people come to know God through the difficulties and trials in life, however **He also draws people to repentance through His evident “kindness and patience.”**

II. CONSEQUENCES OF GOD’S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT (2:5-11) – People who choose to sin regularly **also choose to ignore the repercussions of their actions**, preferring pleasure over consequence of penalty! Taking this stance is risky because (Num 32:23) tells us that *Our sins will find us out!*

A. God’s Judgment brings WRATH (5) – READ

1. Upon men who are Hardened in their Hearts (5a) – This is illustrative of a heart full of calluses

- The scriptures warn against having such a heart. (Ps 95:8-11) **“Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, as in the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 when your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work. 10 For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts, and they do not know My ways.' 11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' ”**
- The scriptures tell us what we should do (Hosea 10:12) – **“Sow for yourselves righteousness. Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you.”** [*Yet so many today have grown cold in their hearts*]

2. Upon men who are Unrepentant (5b) – These are those who DO NOT want to turn from their sin and rebellion. – In (Luke 13:3,5) Jesus said, **“but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”**

- These men are **Awaiting Judgment: “Storing Up Wrath” (5c)** – **“In an eternally real sense, unrepentant man is making deposits in a bank account from which he will one day collect to his unending woe.”** – R. Kent Hughes

B. God’s Judgment will be Rendered (6-10) – READ

1. Each according to Deeds (6) – *A quote from (Psalm 62:12)* – Although scripture everywhere teaches that salvation is not on the basis of works, **it consistently teaches that God’s judgment is always on the basis of man’s deeds** (Isa 3:10,11; Jer 17:10; John 5:28; 1 Cor 3:8; 2 Cor 5:10; Gal 6:7)

- There are many people who live as if there was no God, who evade his commandments, who evade his offer of salvation but cannot evade his righteous judgment...

b. **This speaks of a judgment No One Can Escape** – However, it seems that **so many get away with their sin!** Gross crimes are committed, and the murderer escapes the just sentence of the law: the defrauder and the betrayer and the slanderer somehow *occupy positions of respectability in life.* – Scripture assures us that **“If”** they do not repent, **“they”** will go down to the grave with their sins upon their soul, to pass on into the presence of that judgment from which earthly rank and earthly wealth can purchase no escape. **They will be judged!** (Gal 6:7-8)

2. Eternal Life is for those who Patiently Seek (7) – There are two types of eternal life from which all must partake of one; **(1) to be eternally blessed in the presence of the glory and honor of God,** or **(2) to abide in a dwelling state of eternal separation from God and all that is good.**

3. Eternal Wrath for the Disobedient [Jew or Greek] (8,9) – Notice the first characteristic mentioned – the are **“self-seeking.”** Secondly, notice the results of this choice – **“indignation, wrath, tribulation, and anguish for every soul who practices evil.”**

4. Eternal Glory, Honor, & Peace is for those who do Good [Jew or Greek] (10) – In (1 Pet 1:7), we are told that our faith is the only thing that will help up to attain these benefits.

C. God’s Judgment is without Partiality (11) – **READ** – **“For there is no partiality with God.”**

1. Scripture is absolutely clear that God PERFECTLY IMPARTIAL in His Judgment (Acts 10:34; Gal 2:6; Eph 6:7,8; Col 3:25; 1 Pet 1:17). – **He does not play favorites with anybody.** Yet, for some reason we imagine that there is something about us that will persuade God to make an exception – Our intelligence, our position, our many acts of kindness, or our good looks. Additionally, He cannot be fooled. Such defenses as **“my mother sang in the choir,” “I’m a church member,” “My grandfather was a preacher,”** or **“I’m a big tither,”** will not cut it with God!

2. God looks upon the Heart, the Motives, the Character. – When judging men, **He sees but two classes. What are these? *The rich and the poor?* No. *The learned and the unlearned?* No. *The Christian and the heathen?* No. *The Protestant and the Roman Catholic?* No. In God's sight... **it is Character and Conduct,** NOT Country, or Class, or Creed, which divide men.**

3. We must understand that APART from the blood of Jesus Christ, He will not be moved!

P/A – **A man may be a “good” person** – Upright, outwardly moral, and sure of his goodness. But if he dies without Christ, Christ will say to him, **‘You, therefore have no excuse’ (v.1),** and His judgment will be righteous and just and true!

III. CRITERION FOR GOD’S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT (2:12-16) – The LAW! – **READ**

A. The Law is the Standard of Judgment (12) – And ***Sinning without the Law* (12a),** means, ***you will Perish without the Law*** – The Gentiles who never had the opportunity to know God’s moral law (Ex 20) ***will be judged on their own disobedience in relationship to their own limited knowledge. (James 4:17)*** **“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”** **Man is without excuse!**

- ***Sinning within the Law* (12b)** – **You will be judged by the Law** – The Jews and Gentiles who had Access to God’s moral law will be accountable for their greater knowledge of it.

[Note: Parenthetical break from verses 13 through 15]

B. The Law Justifies the Doer (13)

1. **Those who are NOT JUST (13a) – *Hearers only***; A person who only hears the Word but does not obey it with in his or her heart, **will not have credit for their supposed claim of faith.**
2. **Those who are JUSTIFIED (13b) – *Doers***; A person who acts on what he has heard is considered as one who will be justified in the eyes of God. Works justify that you are a true believer. **(Jam 2:20-26)**

C. The Law of the Gentiles (14)

1. **Gentiles are naturally WITHOUT the Law (14a)** – Without knowing the written law of God, people in pagan society value that which is generally good.
2. **Gentiles naturally DO WHAT IS IN the Law (14b)** – Most culture instinctively practice justice, honesty, and compassion, and goodness towards others, reflecting the divine written in their hearts.
3. **Gentiles have THEIR OWN Law (14c)** – The fact that they naturally practice some good deeds, and **avert others**, *demonstrate an innate knowledge of God's law*. **This knowledge is what will actually witness against them on the day of Judgment.**

D. The Law within the Heart (15) – AKA, *the Conscience (15a)* – This is the instinctive sense of right and wrong that produces guilt when violated. In addition to an awareness of God's law, men have a warning system that activates when they choose to ignore or disobey that law. – Our **CONSCIENCES** then, serve as **a conviction meter to truth (15b)**, sounding off when violating what is right before God.

E. The Secrets of Men will be Judged (v.16)

1. **On a certain day (16a) – *The day shall declare the promised judgment***. There is an "*end*" towards which all things are tending – An end which shall also be a beginning. Both reason and revelation point to this. The law of future retribution is the same with the law of present judgment: **"to every man according to his works."** According to what a man is in himself, it shall he be regarded by God. **The deeds of a man declare the character of the man!** (*b/c it is attached to his heart and mind*)
2. **Only by Jesus Christ (16b) – (Acts 17:31) "*Because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.*"**
3. **On the basis of the Gospel (16c) – *The judgment of God is based on the measure of light, affirming the gospel!*** – (Mark 1:15) says, **"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."**

P/A – *God's judgment is so perfect that He takes into account an individual's moral perception when rendering judgment.* – He knows that **"all fall short,"** and that **NONE** can measure up to even their own moral perceptions of right or wrong, let alone God's law. **No one will ever be able to rise before God and declare that He has been unfair.**

Closing Thought: *The judgment of God against the unbeliever is throughout the entire Bible, accompanied with the invitation to flee His wrath by turning to God. (Psalm 50:22-23) "Now consider this, you who forget God, Lest I tear you in pieces, And there be none to deliver: 23 Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God."*