

Romans 2:5-16 The Moral Man Condemned

While it may seem obvious that the people who commit the sins in Romans 1 are condemned, what about “good people”? What about those who don't know God's law? Paul addresses that very question in today's text.

Topic- Works

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THREE KEY RULES FOR BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION:

- 1) Context
- 2) Context
- 3) Context

*Straight Outta Context

A Verse For Voting:

-Ecclesiastes 10:2 — A wise man's heart inclines him toward the right, but a fool's heart toward the left.

Does your husband call washing dishes “women's work”?

-2 Kings 21:13 — ...and I will wipe Jerusalem as a MAN wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down.

Did you know that Santa Claus is in the Bible?

-Zechariah 2:6 — “Ho, ho, come forth...”

Looking for the world's best verse to paint on the nursery wall?

-1 Corinthians 15:51 — “We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed.”

How about the bathroom?

-Jeremiah 4:19 — “My bowels, my bowels! I am pained...”

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This whole section of Romans is about CONDEMNATION, not salvation.

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“treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath”

“Treasuring up” = thēsaurizō (θησαυρίζω); to lay up as treasure (thēsauros)— Paul inverts the normal sense;

Matthew 6:19-20 — “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

*Spurgeon- God’s wrath, though it come not on you yet, is like a stream that is dammed up. Every moment it gathers force.

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

Psalms 62:12 — Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy; For You render to each one according to his work.

-Proverbs 24:12; Job 34:11; Hosea 12:2; Jeremiah 17:10; 32:19; Matthew 16:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 2:23; 20:12; 22:12

Works have always been the evidence of faith:

-Age of conscience — Genesis 4:3–7; “if thou doest well”

-Age of the law — keeping the law, sacrificing when broken

-The Church age — the law of faith

John 6:28–29 — Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?”

-Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

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James 2:14 — What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

-NIV: Can such faith save them?

-ESV: Can that faith save him?

James 2:21 — Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?

James 2:22 — Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

Hebrews 11:17-19 — By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

*wiersbe- "A faith that cannot be tested cannot be trusted."

*MLJ- "Our works can't save us, but our works can condemn us."

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"glory, honor, and immortality"

John Stott Defined These As:

-Glory = "manifestation of God Himself"

-Honour = "God's approval"

-Immortality = "unfading joy of His presence"

-All sought, "by patient continuance in doing good"

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"God-seeking" Vs. "Self-seeking"

"to the Jew first and also to the Greek."

-The Good News, and the "Bad News"

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"For there is no partiality with God"

"Partiality" = *prosōpolēmpsia* (προσωπολημψία); not found before Paul

-Lit: "to receive" + "face", i.e. preferring someone without good reason

Leviticus 19:15 — You shall do no injustice in judgment. You shall not be partial to the poor, nor honor the person of the mighty. In righteousness you shall judge your neighbor.

Matthew 8:10 — When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed,

"Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

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James 1:22-25 — But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. -For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

-But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

Again, Context.

Romans 3:20 — Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

-Romans 3:23 — for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

-Romans 3:24 — being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

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“the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness”

Jeremiah 31:33 — But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts...

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*Ryle- “There is a conscience in all men by nature... God has taken care to leave Himself a witness in our bosoms... It may be seared and trampled under foot. But there is such a thing as conscience in every man, accusing or excusing him.”

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Revelation 20:11-12 — Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

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*Spurgeon- “My gospel,” saith he, with a rapture of delight, as he presses to his heart the sacred deposit of truth

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Romans 10:8-10 — ...“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

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Micah 6:8 — He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

Genesis 3:8 — And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...

Genesis 5:24 — And Enoch walked with God; and he was not [he “disappeared”], for God took him.

Amos 3:3 — Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

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Psalms 75:8 — For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, And the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth Drain and drink down.

Revelation 14:9-10 — “If anyone worships the beast... he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Matthew 20:20-21 — Then the mother of Zebedee’s sons came to Him... She said to Him, “Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.”

Matthew 20:22 — But Jesus answered and said, “You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink...

Matthew 26:39 — He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

-Matthew 26:42 — Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

2 Corinthians 5:21 — For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

*Spurgeon- “Every drop of divine wrath was put into that cup, and Jesus drank it all

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Ephesians 2:8-9 — For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

-Ephesians 2:10 — For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 4:1 — I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

