

Romans 2:1-4 The Goodness of God

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“Therefore”

“The moral man”

*“Our Seneca” - Roman Stoic philosopher Lucius Annaeus Seneca (c. 4 BC – AD 65). Tertullian-De Anima (On the Soul), ch. 20

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Romans 2:1 NLT — You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things.

“Inexcusable” = anapologētos (ἀναπολόγητος); without defense, unable to justify oneself

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Matthew 7:1-2 — “Judge not, that you be not judged. “For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.

Matthew 12:37 — “by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned”

“Sally is such a gossip, and it bothers me so much, I just needed to vent a bit...”

John 7:24 — “judge with righteous judgment”

Matthew 7:5 — “Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

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1 Samuel 16:7 — man looks at outward appearance, the LORD looks at the heart

Ecclesiastes 12:14 — “For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.”

Luke 12:2 — “For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known.”

Jeremiah 17:10 — “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways...”

Hebrews 4:13 — “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

1 Corinthians 4:5 — “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts...”

1 Timothy 5:24 — Some men’s sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later.

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Numbers 32:23 — ... and be sure your sin will find you out.

*Nathan & David, 2 Samuel 12

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“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness...”

“Do you despise” = kataphroneō (καταφρονέω); to think down on, to treat lightly, to disregard

- kata (κατά) = down, against
- phroneō (φρονέω) = to think, to regard

You want to judge them, and see God judge them, but do you think lightly of the fact that only the goodness of God has kept back His judgement of your own sins?

The Sinful Woman Forgiven- Luke 7:36-50

-The Unforgiving Servant- Matthew 18:21-25

Luke 7:47 — “Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”

Matthew 18:32-33 — “Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. ‘Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’

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Titus 3:3-7 — For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the

kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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“forbearance and longsuffering...”

How patient has God been with you?

-How many sins of yours has God forgiven without consequence?

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“Ah yes, praise God for His goodness. God is a good God, who would never judge us, thus we are allowed to stay as we are.”

-“No you fool! Don't you realize that the goodness of God leads you to repentance!”

If we sin presumptuously, appealing to the grace, mercy, and goodness of God, we are despising His goodness.

The goodness of God is NEVER an excuse to sin...

-In fact, it is the very power to deliver us from sin.

What does Gospel mean?

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“Leads”

Hosea 11:4 — “I drew them with gentle cords, With bands of love...”

Jeremiah 31:3 — “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.”

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“Repentance” = metanoia (μετάνοια); change of mind, turning

2 Peter 3:9 — The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

*Focht- Right beliefs lead to right living.

*Guzik-.Repentance must never be thought of as something we must do before we can come back to God. Repentance describes what coming to God is. You can't turn towards God without turning from the things He is against.

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Psalm 34:8 — Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

Jeremiah 29:11-13 — For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

Psalm 103:10-12 — He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

1 John 3:1 — Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

Romans 8:32 — He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Romans 8:38-39 — For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lamentations 3:22–23 — Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

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Psalm 23:6 — Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

“Goodness” = ṭôb (טוֹב); goodness, pleasantness, that which is beneficial and favorable

“Mercy” = ḥesed (חֶסֶד); steadfast love, covenant loyalty, faithful lovingkindness

“Follow” = rāḡaḇ(רָגַב) shows up 143x in OT
-pursue (74x)

-persecute (20x)

-follow (18x), chase (13x), persecutors (7x)

-To pursue, chase, run after, even persecute

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Psalm 139:7-10 — Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.

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*Tozer- "The goodness of God is infinitely more wonderful than we will ever be able to comprehend