

1. Review:

- HCC's vision is: "Being Disciples Who Make Disciples", and I believe Romans is the best book in Scripture to help teach us how to live out this vision.
- In chapter 1, Paul briefly introduced the topic of his letter - the Gospel - to the church in Rome. And he declared that it saves all who believe it!
- Then he started his in-depth teaching of the Gospel by going back to establish the dark **backdrop** to the Gospel, which is mankind's sinfulness and God's judgment.
- Paul mentioned 3 times that God's response to people willfully choosing to reject Him was to "abandon them" to their sinful and shameful desires.
- Paul continues with the backdrop of people's sinfulness and how God's justice requires Him to punish all people who have sinned.

2. Text: Romans 2:1-16

Romans 2:1-4

- Paul warned that God's **justice** demands that He judge and punish anyone who has sinned, including **you!**
 - Paul is saying that God is completely righteous and can't allow even 1 sin, "big" or "little", to go unpunished by death and eternal separation from Him.
 - **John 8:1-11** Jesus said, "...let the one who has never sinned cast the first stone."
 - Paul is setting the foundational truth that **all** people have something in common: we **all** rightfully deserve God's wrath and punishment because we **all** have sinned.
- God's **kindness**, tolerance, and **patience** is intended to cause people to turn from their sin.
 - **Romans 5:8** "But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us **while** we were still sinners."

Romans 2:5-11

- Paul warned that God will judge everyone (unbelievers) according to what they have done.

Romans 2:12-16

- Neither a form of “religion” nor attempts to be good will make people right with God; **complete** obedience is required.
 - **Romans 3:19-20**: “Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.”
 - And after all that, if the recipients of Paul’s letter still thought their actions were good enough to earn salvation, Paul adds, “God will judge everyone’s **secret** thoughts.” Yikes!

3. Application

- If you haven’t yet, admit and embrace the reality that you can’t be good enough to earn God’s acceptance and forgiveness by trying to be good.
- God is full of grace and full of truth. We need to become more and more like that in our interactions with unbelievers and believers alike.