

ROMANS

KNOW THE TRUTH

March 3, 2024

Series: Know the Truth

Sermon: God Will Judge Everyone's Secret Life

Scripture: Romans 2:1-16

Summary: In the second half of Romans chapter one, Paul makes a strong case against homosexuality but he also gives an extensive list of additional sins. He clearly connects all sin to a rejection of God and none who practice sin will be excused. Because of the rejection of God and the suppression of the truth, sinners will be punished by God. In chapter two verse one, Paul warns those connected with the church not to judge. He makes a strong case that all are guilty of sin and all will be punished. God does not show favoritism, everyone's secret life will be judged! Therefore, no one should condemn anyone but show kindness, tolerance and patience to everyone just like God does.

Romans 2:1-16

1 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. 2 And we know that God, in his justice, will punish anyone who does such things. 3 Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you do the same things? 4 Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

5 But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. 6 He will judge everyone according to what they have done. 7 He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. 8 But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness. 9 There will be trouble and calamity for everyone who keeps on doing what is evil—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. 10 But there will be glory and honor and peace from God for all who do good—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. 11 For God does not show favoritism.

12 When the Gentiles sin, they will be destroyed, even though they never had God's written law. And the Jews, who do have God's law, will be judged by that law when they fail to obey it. 13 For merely listening to the law doesn't make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in his sight. 14 Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having

heard it. 15 They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. 16 And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.

I. Do Not Judge Others or You Will Be Judged. Matthew 7:1

Everyone is equally guilty of sin. No one is more guilty than any other. There is never a time when someone forgiven of their sin should judge others still living in sin.

1 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. 2 And we know that God, in his justice, will punish anyone who does such things. 3 Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you do the same things?

Romans 2:1-3

If you refuse to forgive others, your father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:15

Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?

Romans 2:4

II. Be Kind, Tolerant, and Patient with Others Like God is With You!

Maybe your kindness, tolerance, and patience will help others turn from their sin!

He will judge everyone according to what they have done. Romans 2:6

III. God Will Judge Everyone!

God will judge you for what you have done!

A. God Will Give Terrible Punishment

5 But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. 8 But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness. 9 There will be trouble and calamity for everyone who keeps on doing what is evil—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. Romans 2:5, 8-9

There will be terrible punishment for you who are stubbornly refusing to turn from your sin. You will be responsible for your own punishment. God's righteous judgement will be revealed in the day of anger against those who live for themselves, disobeying the truth, living lives of wickedness.

B. God Will Give Eternal Life

7 He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. 10 But there will be glory and honor and peace from God for all who do good—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile.

Romans 2:7,10

There will be eternal life for you who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. There will be glory, honor and peace from God for all who do good!

11 For God does not show favoritism. Romans 2:11

C. God is Fair!

12 When the Gentiles sin, they will be destroyed, even though they never had God's written law. And the Jews, who do have God's law, will be judged by that law when they fail to obey it. 13 For merely listening to the law doesn't make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in his sight. 14 Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. 15 They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. 16 And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life. Romans 2:12-16

IV. The Day is Coming When God, Through Jesus, Will Judge Everyone's Secret Life.

Life Application:

1. Jesus said, "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you." (Matthew 7:1-2). Why is it hard not to judge others?
2. How does Paul connect the sin list in chapter one to the call not to condemn others for their sin at the outset of chapter two? Why is this so important?
3. If Christians are not to judge/condemn others for their sins, then how are they to respond to people living in sin?
4. How does Paul connect God's kindness, tolerance and patience to all people but specifically to Christians? If God's kindness is intended to turn you from your sin, how might you use kindness to turn others from their sin?
5. Paul challenges Christians of all generations not to condemn people for sin and to use kindness to help others turn from their sin. Then he leaves no doubt as to the seriousness of his instruction, when he brings up everyone's secret life. What does Paul mean by secret life?
6. How does Paul use the idea of secret life to bring home his teaching on how to treat others in their sin? How does this teaching build on Jesus' teaching and practice found in the account of the woman caught in adultery in John 8:1-11?
7. PRAY: Ask the Lord to help you obey Him in every area of your public and private life. Ask the Lord to help you show kindness to others including those who are living in sin.