

SCRIPTURE: Romans 2:1-11 TITLE: "The Kindness of the Gospel"

**Intro: "Saved your life!" Prank.** You weren't danger, but they made you feel like you were in danger. They scared you into thinking you weren't safe. Well, that's not what I'm about to do. That's not what Paul does here. He warns us about a real danger. God Himself and His just judgment on sin. His coming wrath. **"Saved from what?"** Paul is proving that righteousness through the gospel is necessary, because without it was are condemned under the just judgment of God. **He wants to save our life.**

**Thesis: "It is the Kindness of God that waits & warns us of the coming judgment"**

### I. We're all under God's Judgment (1-3)

- A. **"Therefore"**. No one is off the hook. Look at that list! None are exempt. We're all condemned.
- B. **We try to compare ourselves to others**, or point out the more "techni-color" sins. The obvious ones. The culturally unacceptable or disturbing ones. The extreme ones. To feel better about us.
- C. **We try to make righteousness measurable. "Do these things. Don't do these things."**
- D. **John 3:16-21, 36.** Jesus didn't come to condemn, b/c we already were. He came to save from!
- E. **Ephesians 2:1-9.** Grace and salvation in light of God's wrath. "Saved from what?"
- F. **Do we really think we will escape God's judgment?** "Only God can judge me." You're right. But He's the only one you don't to judge you. Because His judgment is perfect and He sees everything. He knows it all. Even the stuff you don't know about, or suppressed & forgot about.

**ILLUSTRATION: Jesus's teaching was full of warning of judgment. Sodom/Gomorrah, Nineveh, Queen of Sheba.** All will stand up at judgment day and condemn. Tyre/Sidon would have repented!

- G. **We'll see that is because of God's kindness and grace**, that He warns us of the coming doom.

**ILLUSTRATION: White Water Falls.** Sliding rock. Warning about falling. Number of deaths changed.

*"Oh. You're good! You do what feels right to you. If you want to climb on those slippery rocks go for it."*

*"Listen, I've actually done that before. I thought I was strong. Good balance. Athletic. Risk taker. But I slipped. I started sliding. I was caught in the current. Then someone reached down and grabbed me."*

### II. God is Kind and Patient (4-5)

- A. **This really is gracious and kind.** He's warning us. Pleading with us to repent before it's too late.
- B. **Presumption.** "God will forgive me." "He hasn't done anything yet." "He didn't do anything last time." "I'm pretty healthy." "I've got time to repent and change things." "Just one more time." "He knows what I was going to do anyways." "He knew I was gonna and He promised to forgive."
- C. **Kindness. Forbearance. Patience.** This is God. Same God who's just & who's wrath is coming. And it's all meant to lead to repentance. His kindness and grace. He hasn't judged yet. Time!

**ILLUSTRATION: Because of Hardness.** Church Signs. **Frozen Ground. Dig** in summer. Hard. Jim.

- D. **v.5.** We need a **SOFT** heart of **REPENTANCE**. Or we are **storing up** wrath. **Water Park Bucket.**
- E. **Storing up Wrath.** That should bring heartache. Sadness. Pity. People on minds. Not delight.

### III. God is Just & Fair (6-11)

- A. **According to everyone's works.** Everything you've done. Jesus already paid.
- B. **God will judge according to every work.** He will either judge it on Jesus or on you if no repent.

**ILLUSTRATION: Jesus's Parables. Wheat and Weeds.** Harvest. Weeds first. Fire. Then Wheat.

- C. **If you believe the gospel, there's nothing to be scared of.** That's why it's Good News!
- D. **Whatever God promises** to the ungodly, He promises the opposite to the godly. **Who is godly?**
- E. **The Gospel comes to the Jew first, then the Greek/Gentile.** But so does His wrath/judgment.
- F. **No partiality.** "No respect of persons." KJV. Ethnicity, Education, Abilities, Personality, Wealth, Status, Notoriety, Potential, Success, Accomplishments, Accent, Language, History, Sins, etc.
- G. **If God is like this, His people should be too. His Church.** Unfortunately, we're not. We're sinners. We're prideful. We're picky. We have preferences and priorities. Whoever walks through those doors, we should be flocking to see! Not just the young families. Or the young people. Or the ones who are dressed nice. Or the culturally diverse minorities. Everyone!
- H. **"The church is full of hypocrites."** Amen. And I'm one of them.
- I. **"Prejudice"** means to "pre-judge" "judge them before you know them." **Based on externals.**

**CONCLUSION: Prairie Fire.** Stand where the fire has already been. Where it's already burned. The fire cannot burn what the fire has already burned! We're safe if we stand where the fire has already been. Where it's already burned. **JESUS.** Is. 53.

**John 3:16-21, 36**

**16** "For God so loved the world,[a] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. **20** For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. **21** But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

**36** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

**Ephesians 2:1-9**

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— **3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body[a] and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. [b] **4** But[c] God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**CONCLUSION: *Prairie Fire.*** Stand where the fire has already been. Where it's already burned. The fire cannot burn what the fire has already burned! We're safe if we stand where the fire has already been. Where it's already burned. **JESUS.** Is. 53.