November 1, 2026

Series: "Romans: The Gospel according to Paul"

Sermon: "God's Righteous Judgment"

Scripture: Romans 2:1-4



Introduction

A. No one escapes God's righteous judgment. Neither people who practice the gross sins listed in Romans 1 nor people who are outwardly moral and religious mentioned in Romans 2.

B. Both types of sinners will stand before God in judgment.

C. "I'm looking for a loophole" (W. C. Fields).

D. Paul now moves from the shameless immorality in chapter 1 to self-conscious moralism in chapter 2.

E. The sinners in chapter 1 rejected God's standard of righteousness while the sinners in chapter 2 recognized God's standard and judged other people by it.

F. In Romans 2 Paul shows how moralism doesn't work. It doesn't fix our sin problem. None of us live up to the standard by which we judge others.

G. The righteousness of moralism will not save you. Moralism is enough to condemn you but not enough to save you. Only the gospel reveals the righteousness we need to be saved.

H. Big Idea: No one escapes God's righteous judgment.

I. When We Judge Sin in Others, We Condemn Ourselves because We Do the Same Things (2:1)

A. The self-righteous moralists in Romans 2 were in agreement with Paul about the sins listed in Romans 1. They were saying: "Get'em God. They deserve judgment."

B. But then Paul had the gall to say "Therefore you are without excuse." Wait a minute, Paul. We are good, outstanding, moral people.

C. The Jews believed they were good with God because they were God's chosen people and they outwardly kept the Law. (Luke 18:21; Philippians 3:6)

D. Paul was saying you're no better off because you're no better.

E. People today believe they're ok with God because they live moral lives or have walked an aisle, been baptized, and are a member of a church.

F. No. We are all guilty of breaking God's standard. When you judge others you acknowledge a moral standard.

G. "The moment you say that one set of moral ideas can be better than another, you are in fact, measuring them both by a standard…comparing them both with some Real Morality, admitting that there is such a thing as a real Right, independent of what people think and that some people's ideas get nearer to that real Right than others" (C. S. Lewis).

H. Moralists easily see sin in other people but are blind to the sin in themselves. (Matthew 7:1-5)

I. Are there sins in Romans 1 that you agree to be sin? Let me ask you. Have you ever been arrogant? Boastful? Disobedient to parents?

J. Now you're against murder, but have you ever been angry at someone? You have never outwardly committed sexual immorality (gone all the way), but have you ever lusted for someone in your heart?

K. "No one's perfect." Exactly. None of us are perfect. Only Jesus is perfect and we need His righteousness.

L. We need a righteousness that exceeds our self-righteous moralism. God doesn't grade on a curve.

II. Because We Violate God's Perfect Standard of Truth, We Will Not Escape God's Judgment(2:2-3)

A. "And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things."

B. Everything God does is, by nature, right and according to the truth. Not your truth. God's truth. God has established an objective right and wrong in His universe.

C. 2:3. It is presumptuous for you to think God should judge others for their sins but not judge you for yours.

D. If you judge others for their sins, do you really think God will overlook your sins? As Lee Corso used to say: "Not so fast, my friend." God will judge you for the evil you practice, including your hypocrisy in the self-righteous judgment of others.

E. If you have enough knowledge to judge others, you are self-condemned, for you have enough knowledge to judge your own true condition as well.

F. King David is a prime example. (2 Samuel 11-12)

G. God will judge us on the basis of His perfect righteous standard.

H. Important clarification: Paul was not saying it's never right to judge. Sin should not be ignored and should be confronted biblically. (Matthew 18:15-20)

I. The point here is we should not focus on other people's sins while we're overlooking or dismissing our own.

J. Have you ever sat under the searching judgment of God? We must acknowledge that God's judgment is right and repent and confess our sin.

III. Don't Mistake God's Kindness and Patience to You as His Approval of You (2:4)

A. Self-righteousness deceives people into thinking that God's kindness and patience mean God is ok with them.

B. "Lightly" means to think down on someone or something and to underestimate the true value. It means to disregard or despise.

C. "There is in every willful sin a contempt for the goodness of God" (Matthew Henry).

D. "Kindness" refers to God's benefits to everyone.

E. "Forbearance" means to hold back.

F. "Patience" means to have a long fuse, to be slow in getting hot.

G. In other words, just because your life is good at the moment doesn't mean you are ok with God.

H. The kindness of God is to lead you to repentance. "This saving repentance is a gospel grace in which those who are made aware by the Holy Spirit of the many evils of their sin, by faith in Christ humble themselves for it with godly sorrow, hatred of it, and self-loathing. They pray for pardon and strength of grace and determine and endeavor by provisions from the Spirit to live before God in a well-pleasing way in everything" (2LBCF, 15:3).

I. God's kindness, forbearance, and patience are extended to all mankind, until they're not. There is coming a day when you will stand before God in judgment.

J. One day will be too late. You don't have forever, but one day you will.

K. "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5).

Conclusion

A. God is good. He is giving us an opportunity to examine ourselves in the light of Scripture.

B. Now is the time for you to be real with God. Pray and ask God to convict you of your sin. Acknowledge He is right in His judgment concerning you.

C. "Although there is no sin so small that it is undeserving of damnation, yet there is no sin so great that it will bring damnation on those who repent" (2LBCF, 15:5).

D. Confess your sin to Him and receive forgiveness.

E. The Gospel Definition