

Romans 2.1-16

“A Movie You Never Want to See!”

Ch 1 So-Called ATHEISTS – MADE Religion of IDOLS > THINGS – Yourself KNOW God but Suppress – Deny – Exchange IMMORTAL 4 MEANINGLESS

End Romans 1 TERRIBLE Picture what happens People get Wish > WANT GOD to Just LEAVE them ALONE! - 3 X's “God gave them up”!

@Paul preaches Wrath/God> Sinful Gentiles: ‘Good People’/Pews shout AMEN

Most People believe SOME People are SO BAD they should GO to HELL!

Very FEW people believe THAT would INCLUDE Them!

Think? Say??

Ch 2 – GOOD People – “I am better than Others” > a.k.a. MORALIST

Some of ‘Good People’ were Jews > Esp Focus on them 2.17 onward

PLURALISTIC 1st C Rome & Today: Good People of Many Faiths & NO Faith

Paul the Apostle – writing as God’s PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Just like WORLD Not Prepared for VIRUS > Not Prepared to MEET God

All HUMANITY will come to God’s THRONE of JUDGEMENT

1. Our Judgement of Others

A BIG Idea in TEXT – this Section in Romans – JUDGMENT > GOD the Judge

vs. 1,2 ...O man, every one of you who judges...passing judgment on another...you, the judge...the judgment of God...

Word – JUDGE & Related Words – COMPLEX – and Sometimes CONFUSING

JUDGMENT > ACT of GOD = Event & ATTITUDE of Man = Emotions

Ch 2 – Discusses JUDGMENT – by BOTH God/Man – BOTH Good/Bad

a. Traced on our Soul

Paul Builds his Teaching on CREATION Recorded in GENESIS

PEOPLE are MADE in Image of God – MAKER is Lawgiver and Judge

Our CAPACITY for Judgment > Image of God who Thinks, Speaks, Discerns

God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over...all the creatures" Genesis 1.26

“the man gave names to all the (animals)” Genesis 2.20 / WISE ANALYSIS

INVITED to ENJOY the 100’s of FRUITS in EDEN > EXCEPT ONE

FOUNDATION of Paul’s LETTER to Romans / Man can Think

SHOULD USE Our MIND TO LOVE the God & Neighbor / Believe His Word

“they know God’s righteous decree” Romans 1.32 KNOW RIGHT / DO WRONG

vs. 14,15 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them

Ch 1 – Everyone KNOWS God / Ch 2 – Everyone knows GOD’S Rule/Authority

v. 14, 15 THREE WITNESS of God’s Judgment > ALL PEOPLE HAVE

1) Nature vs. 14,15 “Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts”

EVEN WITHOUT BIBLE > Most Cultures Value:

Life, Honor, Bravery, Selflessness, Respect, Compassion, Kindness

All have INSTINCTIVE Sense of What “Is FAIR” / Say “That’s NOT FAIR!?”

When BROTHER/SISTER gets Bigger Piece of Cake – More Screen TIME

When SOMEONE Takes your SEAT in the SUBWAY

Jumps the Que you have been PATIENTLY Standing In

CUTS into your LANE in TRAFFIC >> We will shout ‘That’s Not FAIR

No matter Citizenship – Culture – Color > Sense of FAIRNESS / Right/ Wrong

“you were wrong” – “that is my place” – “I was here first” – “it’s not fair”

Reason that Cultures in the World have very Similar Laws and Morals

2) Conscience v. 15 “while their conscience also bears witness”

JEWS had God’s Rule in WRITTEN COMMANDMENTS

ALL People have God’s Rule WRITTEN on their CONSCIENCE

“Knowledge shows what is right; conscience approves it and condemns the wrong”

Robert Haldane

The man who makes judgements ...is appealing to some kind of standard of behavior which he expects the other man to know about. And the other man very seldom replies, ‘to hell with your standard.’ Nearly always he tries to make out that he really was not going against that standard, or he had some special excuse...both parties had in mind some kind of Law or Rule of fair play and decent behavior or morality or whatever you like to call it, about which they really agreed.

C.S. Lewis

3) Memory v. 15 “their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them”

Last FALL John Ensor & Team LUNCH Abortion Doctor in Romania

He sat down and started talking. “People are not going to stop fooling around, so they need me to provide them abortion. I am helping them. If I don’t do it, someone else will do it... I have no time to talk to them. They want abortion. I provide it. That’s it.”

Romanian Doctor

John’s colleague Jeanne – who used to OWN Abortion Center & had A. THERE

Her perspective began to change when she got pregnant. She wanted her baby.

But the father insisted on abortion. After weeks of turmoil, Jeanne yielded to the

pressure and had an abortion inside her own abortion business. Then the abortion doctor asked, “Did you regret it?” “Yes,” she replied. Still grieving...

Then John showed Dr. APP of Fetal Development > Girlfriend was Fascinated

“When I was in school,” he said, “I had to choose between doing OB/GYN or forensic medicine. I could make more money in forensics, but I chose OB/GYN. I didn’t want to deal with death all the time. I chose OB/GYN so I could be there when the light goes on.” Mihaela responded, “Ironic then that you ended up turning the lights off.” He bowed his head and confessed, “Yes, you are right.”

Romanian Doctor

We reminded him that it was not too late to truly help women and bring babies into the world. We talked for 2 1/2 hours. He left knowing we cared for him.

WE KNOW OUR WRONGS / DEEP SEATED GUILT LINGERS

GOD USES NATURAL LAW, CONSCIENCE, & MEMORY to EXPOSE Sin

b. Twisted by Sin

v. 3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?

Think we are COMPETENT to Judge > will Face CRISIS at Judgment of GOD

Experts at Seeing FAULTS of Others – BLIND to our OWN Failures

The more we judge others, the more righteous we feel about ourselves.

We think seeing other people’s sins clearly is a sign that we ourselves are holy.

Paul is Setting Trap for Listeners > Agree only 2 groups of people: good/evil

MOST People Agree – most THINK They are Good – Other guys are BAD

HOW Many people are IN that Category of GOOD?

Then ch 3 Trap Door falls!....

“both Jews and Greeks, are under sin... ‘None is righteous, no, not one... There is none who does good, no not one”
Romans 3.10,12

Text refers to ANY RELIGIOUS HYPOCRITE – Jew or Gentile or Buddhist – Muslim – Shinto – Sikh – Hindu - Christian – maybe ESPECIALLY Christian

“For some reason I find it much easier to show grace and acceptance toward immoral unbelievers than toward uptight, judgmental Christians. Which, of course, turns me into a different kind of uptight, judgmental Christian.”

Philip Yancey

Couple yrs ago PHYSICAL Exam by Cousin who is Medical DOCTOR

Dayna & I Took TESTS and EXAMS went back to OFFICE for RESULTS

Sat @ Desk in White Coat – Looked from Papers into Eyes > Both Gonna DIE!

Impt NEWS > Virus of SIN Spreading 100% Fatality > HOPE for Eternal Death

c. Trapped by Our Own Standards

v. 1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things

Recently RETURNED from America > NEW Movies Wanted to See Missed ‘em

ONE Movie NEVER want to See IMAGINE from what Paul says here v 1

NOT want to See MY Life BIG Screen

GOD = Cinematographer > VIDEO Worst Moments / AUDIO Your Judgements

“That’s Wrong! - People should NEVER Do That! – I’d NEVER do THAT!”

Perfectly SPLICED > Trapped by Our Own Standards

v. 1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things

Our Words mean Something to GOD - Jesus: “I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak” Matthew 12.36

Reason WHY it is “A Movie You Never Want to See!”

All of us have condemned others for their sins against us.

We have condemned others for gossiping about us, yet we gossip, too.

We have condemned others for lying to us, yet we lie all the time.

We have condemned others for stealing from us, yet we steal.

We condemn others for slandering us, yet we have slandered many people.

Truly, “passing judgment on another you condemn yourself”

2. God’s Judgement of Everyone

Paul is Apostle of “the eternal God... the only wise God (to whom) be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.” Romans 16.26,27

a. Perfect

v. 2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.

They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Romans 1.29-31

Hard to BELIEVE God’s Wrath falls on these “lesser sins”

justify participation in activity: “everybody’s doing it” - “Nobody’s perfect!”

“To err is human, to forgive is divine.”

“God will forgive . . . it is his trade.” Heinrich Heine

— as long as we do not commit the “biggies” we will be okay —

Assumption: God does not mean what he says or say what he means.

This problem is twofold: 1st Man does not understand God’s holiness

2nd He does not understand his own sinfulness

The law of the Lord is perfect...the testimony of the Lord is sure...the precepts of the Lord are right...the commandment of the Lord is pure... the fear of the Lord is clean...the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.

Psalm 19.7-9

True God is Everywhere at Same Time and Knows All Things

He sees the sins we do in darkness as if we did them in broad daylight.

Think of all Sins you've hidden from Wife, Husband, Employer, Children, Parents, Friends

You stole something and no one saw.

You committed adultery and no one caught you.

You stole from your employer and he didn't know.

You lied to your parents and got away with it.

But God saw, God remembers, God must judge because he is a holy God.

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. Romans 11.33-36

b. Promised

PERFECT Final Judgment of God will NOT Catch People by Complete Surprise

REASON World NOW in the GRIP of FEAR > Death is NOT the END

There is NO ANIHILATION – Only CONDEMNATION without CHRIST

vs. 11,12 For God shows no partiality. For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.

"For God does not show favoritism" = According to Facts of the Case

HOW DO WE MEASURE AGAINST GOD'S RIGHTEOUS STANDARD?

HUMAN JUDGMENT > Tries its best "Do you swear to tell the whole truth?"

EVEN IF WE WANTED TO TELL WHOLE TRUTH cannot know it all

GOD'S TRUTH FOR US / Righteous Standard / Revealed in His Word
 ARE WE READY TO FACE GOD the Righteous Judge / His STANDARD

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” Exodus 20.12

5th C Honor Father and Mother / Did We? Do We?

AUTHORITY > Do we honor those God put in authority over us?

“You shall not commit adultery.” Exodus 20.14

7th C Are we faithful to our spouse? to our Lord? thought? word? deed? Purity?

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” Exodus 20.16

9th C Is what you say about others True? Necessary? Kind? Edifying? Uniting?

THAT IS JUST 3 OF THE 10 COMMANDMENTS > How are you doing?

NOT UNDER MOSES / Follow Jesus > “Sermon on the Mount”

Jesus did NOT WEAKEN the Commands > He RESCUED & RAISED THEM
 Not ONLY “Outward Conformity” BUT “Inward Consecration” / DEVOTION

“Be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect” Matthew 5.48

c. Performance – Our WORKS Will Be JUDGED

vs. 6-10 He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

Is Paul a Buddhist? vs 6-11 reads to Some like Law of karma:

“Do good, receive good; do bad, receive bad,” just like in Buddhism!

Does Paul really believe that those who do good go to heaven and those who do bad go to hell?

YES! But PROBLEM is that NO ONE DOES GOOD!

Purpose vs 6-11 Not teach HOW to BE Accepted by God

But > God Completely Impartial when He Determines who goes Heaven/Hell

On Judgment Day > God will Not Discriminate on the Basis of Race

Based on our Actions > YOU WILL REAP WHAT YOU HAVE SOWN

v. 6 “He will render to each one according to his works”

PRINCIPLE FOUND IN BOTH TESTAMENTS OF SCRIPTURE

Lady Justice WEARS BLINDFOLD as she holds SCALES OF JUSTICE

SAVED BY GOD’S GRACE / JUDGED FOR OUR WORKS

v. 16 “God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus”

WHEN we REALIZE GOD KNOWS EVEN our SECRETS >> SHOCKED

12 yrs old FAMILY LIVED in APARTMENT Building near San Francisco

Mom sent me to get the mail > Apt MAIL Boxes all in One Place

Opened our Box with KEY > LOOKED at Key and WONDERED > Fit All?

INDEED My Key OPENED ALL BOXES > I was in Great Control, Powerful

FORGOTTEN Manager’s Apt door just across hall from Mailboxes

He LOOKED out SPYGLASS > Burst Out SHOUTING at ME / Federal Offense

ONE SECOND > No more power > Shame, Fear, Guilt, Embarrassment

“Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid”
Book of Common Prayer

d. Patient

v. 4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? One reason people think they will escape the wrath of God on the final day is that they don't see God showing his wrath against their sin right now.

I DIDN'T GET KILLED BY THAT VIRUS....YET...

They see God's forbearance and patience, and misinterpret that as God's favor.

“I don't see God punishing me for my sin, so I guess I'm a good person.

I'll just go on doing what I've been doing.”

Reason God holds back his wrath and shows kindness to sinners every day is to give people more time to come to their senses and repent and begin to seek God.

“...I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone...so turn, and live.”

Ezekiel 18.30-32

Myriads of our fellow men have never had an opportunity of knowing Christ. The missionary's foot has never trodden the cities wherein they dwell, and so they die in the dark. Multitudes are going downward, downward, but they do not know the upward road. Their minds have never been enlightened by the teachings of God's word, and hence they sin with less grievousness of fault. You are placed in the very focus of Christian light, and yet you follow evil! Will you not think of this? Time was when a man would have to work for years to earn enough money to buy a Bible...Now the word of God lies upon your table, and you have a copy of it in almost every room. Is not this a boon from God? This is the land of the open Bible, and the land of the preached word of God. In this you prove the richness of God's goodness. Do you despise this wealth of mercy?...Is this a small thing?

Charles Spurgeon

BASIS OF JUDGEMENT – Light of Truth MADE AVAILABLE to US
 LIMITED LIGHT of Creation & Conscience – NATURAL REVELATION
 GREATER LIGHT of Jesus & Scripture – SPECIAL REVELATION
 TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, MUCH WILL BE REQUIRED

e. Pandemic

v. 5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

SECOND TIME IN ROMANS > Paul discusses Wrath of God

Ch. 1 Present - 3 X's "God gave them up" – JUDGED NOW

Ch. 2 Future v. 5 "day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed"

v. 8 "wrath and anger"

v. 9 "trouble and distress for every human being who does evil"

"But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days." 2 Timothy 3.1

"The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD." Joel 2.31,32

"Wrath of God" UNPLEASANT CONCEPT > MODERN MAN > UNFAIR!!

Not only is World AFRAID of Virus > Many are ANGRY about this VIRUS

Cover Ups – Lies – Embezzled Funds/Resources – Lack of Preparation

For SOME – If they don't DIE of Virus they will WISH they HAD!

So WE can be OUTRAGED AGAINST EVIL / but God CANNOT

Righteous Anger is Appropriate for Man / BUT NOT FOR GOD

GOD'S Wrath is not measured by man's Inconsistent, Relative Standards

GOD'S WRATH IS UTTERLY AND ABSOLUTELY RIGHTEOUS

v. 5 “because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself”

GRADUALLY AND SURELY ACCUMULATING

LIKE WATER BEHIND DAM > Eventually Destined to BURST

Was a MAN who STORED UP GOLD COINS in Attic ABOVE BED
GRADUALLY SO HEAVY > breaks through ceiling crushes him in his bed
Thought that Wealth was SALVATION, but really BECAME HIS DEATH

If Sin MUCH will be Punished MORE / If Sin LITTLE be Punished LESS

ONLY HOPE for the GUILTY – All Guilty – is GRACE!

v. 16 on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus

“my gospel” > Book of Romans is the Gospel that Paul himself Proclaimed
Didn’t just proclaim Happy News > Also difficult news “the wrath of God”
Bad News of God’s judgment is Important Part of Good News we Proclaim

This final judgment is “by Jesus Christ.”

Apostle JOHN in Revelation describes > “Great White Throne”

Apostle PAUL in Corinthians describes > “Judgment Seat of Christ”

SAME EVENT – “Day of Wrath” > All People gathered before the LORD

Jesus right be Final Judge of All People > Only Jesus rose from Dead

Only He now sits at the right hand of God as the Lord and King over all.

Are Christians really new creatures? It certainly does not seem so. They are subject to the same old conditions of life to which they were subjects before; if you look upon them you cannot notice any very obvious change. They have the same weaknesses, and, unfortunately sometimes the same sins... This is a very real objection.

J. Gresham Machen

Greatest evidence for Christianity is sin, greatest evidence against Christianity is Christians.
G.K. Chesterton

We STILL Live a Life in the FLESH – Subject to Same Earthly Conditions

Continuing a LIFELONG Battle against SIN

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2.20

Christian life is lived by FAITH, Not by Sight

NOW we are Children of God – NOT YET made Like HIM fully

The Great Change in our Lives NOT YET come to FULL FRUITION

Our SIN – in Us and the World around Us, in Church – Not Yet Fully Conquered

“This restoration does not take place in one moment or one day or one year.... In order that believers may reach this goal [the shining image of God], God assigns to them a race of repentance, which they are to run throughout their lives.”

John Calvin

Christian lives with CONFIDENT Hope in Christ: Loved Him, Gave Self for Us

Need to HEAR Gospel – Again & Again

Today REMEMBER Entrance into Jerusalem: HOSANA! Save US!

That’s just what PLANNED from ETERNITY to Do – Just what he DID!

X Died, X Risen, X will Come Again

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2.20

Romans 2. ¹Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. ²We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. ³Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶He will render to each one according to his works: ⁷to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; ⁸but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. ⁹There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, ¹⁰but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. ¹¹For God shows no partiality. ¹²For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. ¹⁴For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them ¹⁶on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.