

Romans 2.1-16

Religion Unmasked

SOMETIMES FIND MORE HONEST PEOPLE in a BAR than a CHURCH
 Some Church PEOPLE Never take off “Smile, Jesus Loves You MASK
 PEOPLE in the Bar – Espec after a few DRINKS – Are too UNMASKED
 Americans loved a TV show about life in a bar “Cheers” REAL CHARACTERS
 NOT SPEAKING FROM EXPER. IN BARS / reading Academic Journals

Wonder if JESUS PREFERED THE BAR TO THE CHURCH – loyal to church
 Lk 4.16 “Nazareth...Sabbath day Jesus went into synagogue, *as was his custom*”

ACCUSED by Religious – BEST FRIENDS WERE OUTCASTS
 Sinners, Tax Collectors, Prostitutes –today’s idiom = THE BAR CROWD
 Charge NEVER DENIED/ Title “*Friend of Sinners*” worn as BADGE OF HONOR

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

1.18-32 WAS – SCATHING INDICTMENT of the Bar Crowd
 Like a COLD SHOWER on the MORNING AFTER

SOME SURELY RESPONDED – That picture does NOT look LIKE ME?!
 I am Good, Upstanding, Civic Minded, Member of Society
 I ALWAYS REWIND THE VIDEO TAPES BEFORE I RETURN THEM

CALVIN > Ch 1 “those guilty of Grosser Vices” / Ch 2 “Sanctimonious Persons”

ONE WHO WOULD HAVE REJECTED THE REBUKE OF Ch. 1 - SENECA
 STOIC PHILOSOPHER – MORALIST – TUTOR of Caesar NERO
 ADMIRER FOR HIS MORALITY BY EARLY CHRISTIANS
 TERTULLIAN “Seneca, so often one of ourselves”
 EXPOSED HYPOCRISY/ Exalted Great Moral Virtues / Preached Equality

Seneca > FEET OF CLAY – Tolerated IN HIMSELF what condemned others
 LOUD SILENCE when NERO MURDERED his own MOTHER – Agrippina

QUESTION – Text refers to Jews or Gentiles? ANY RELIGIOUS HYPOCRITE
 IF THE SHOE FITS – WEAR IT /// from vs. 17 “if you call yourself a Jew”
 v. 1 “You” – Who is this You? MAYBE IT IS YOU? MAYBE IT IS ME?

F.F. BRUCE – Paul’s style of writing here is what ancients called DIATRIBE
 “Questions or objections are put into the mouth of an imagined critic in order to be answered or demolished. One can almost envisage him as he dictates his letter...All the time his thought races ahead of his words, so that his words have to leap over a gap to catch up with his thought.”

1. God’s Judgment 2. Man and Judgment 3. Man Justified by God

1. God’s Judgment

a. Righteous v. 2 “based on truth” v. 11 “For God does not show favoritism”

v. 2 “God’s judgment is based on truth” = 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 WHEN WE WANT TO TELL WHOLE TRUTH cannot know it all

GOD’S TRUTH FOR US / Righteous Standard / Revealed in His Word

What is the

ARE WE READY TO FACT GOD the Righteous Judge / STANDARD??

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

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

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

8th C Have you stolen? Cheated on taxes? Kept change you wrongly received?

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” Matt 5.48

FOLLOW GOLDEN RULE > found in Sermon on the Mount

Matt 7.12 “Do to others what you would have them do to you”

Have you ever been impatient? Spoken harshly? Taken advantage?

EVEN WITHOUT SCRIPTURE, WE ARE SELF CONDEMNED

FRANCIS SCHAEFFER “Tape Recorder hanging around our necks –
 Every statement of JUDGMENT or evaluation IS RECORDED
 “You should not do that” “I would say that” “People should not hurt their friends”
 “A man should love his wife” “A mother should take care of her children”
 LONG TAPE – WHOLE LIFETIME OF PERSONAL OPINIONS
 THEN GOD HAS ANOTHER TAPE – Video Tape of our Life
 HEAVENLY CINEMATOGRAPHER – Runs his Video along with our Audio
 PLAYING ON JUDGMENT DAY – not only fail His Judgment – also OUR OWN

b. Terrible v. 5 “the day of God’s wrath” / v. 8 “wrath and anger”

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

SECOND TIME IN ROMANS > Paul discusses Wrath of God
 Ch. 1 > PRESENT MANIFESTATION 3 X’s “God gave them over”
 Ch. 2 > v. 5 “THE DAY” Future Manifestation

2 Tim 3.1 ‘But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.’

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

“Wrath of God” UNPLEASANT CONCEPT > MODERN MAN > UNFAIR!!

Few years ago GARY HEIDNIK had “House of Horrors” in Philadelphia USA
 Heidnik Lured Women > Most Transients and Prostitutes into His Home
 Women Chained to Walls / Killed / Cut up > Body parts in Refrigerator
 HAPPENED OVER MANY MONTHS > Watched by Philadelphia POLICE
 Police SUSPECTED FOUL PLAY but had NO “Probable Cause” to Interfere
 FINALLY Woman Escaped > Brought POLICE > Rage of Public agnst Heidnick
 EVEN MORE AGAINST POLICE > because THEY DID NOTHING

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 mans inconsistent, relative standards
 GOD’S WRATH IS UTTERLY AND ABSOLUTELY RIGHTEOUS

v. 5 Being “stored up” GRADUALLY AND SURELY ACCUMULATING

LIKE WATER BEHIND DAM > Eventually Destined to BURST

MAN who STORES UP GOLD COINS in Attic ABOVE BED
 GRADUALLY SO HEAVY > breaks through ceiling kills man in his bed
 Thought of Wealth as SALVATION, but really BECAME HIS DEATH

v. 5 “storing” DEGREES OF PUNISHMENT > JESUS goes to Capernaum
 (CITY that saw Jesus’ Miracles but Refused to Repent & Believe)...
 it will be MORE BEARABLE for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you”

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

c. Inescapable v. 3 Inevitable, inescapable

v. 5 “will be revealed on the DAY” // v. 16 “God will judge”
 DAY OF FINAL JUDGMENT CIRCLED ON GOD’S CALENDAR
 KNOWN BY HIM ALONE / Just because we do not know DO NOT IGNORE

December 7, 1941 “A Day that will live in infamy”
 September 11, 2002 “A Day that shook the world”

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

1. *NATURE* v. 14 “do by nature things required by the law”

EVEN WITHOUT BIBLE > Most Cultures value: Life, Honor, Bravery,
 Selflessness, Respect, Compassion, Kindness

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

2. *CONSCIENCE* v. 15 “their conscience also bearing witness”

Conscience “independent witness within, examines & passes judgment on conduct”

ROBERT HALDANE “Knowledge shows what is right; the conscience approves it
 and condemns the contrary.”

3. *MEMORY* v. 15 “their thoughts now accusing, now even defending”

Jean Paul SARTE / Existentialist Philosopher, Playwright, ATHEIST
 Tells how he became an Atheist > Raised Roman Catholic, RC School
 ESSAY “On the Sufferings of Christ” > Received Silver Medal, NOT Gold

“This disappointment drove me into impiety...For several years more, I maintained public relations with the Almighty. But privately, I ceased to associate with him... BOYHOOD MISCHIEF “I had been playing with matches and burned a small rug. I was in the process of covering up my crime when suddenly God saw me. I felt his gaze inside my head and on my hands. I whirled around in the bathroom, horribly visible, a live target. Indignation saved me. I flew into a rage against so crude an indignation, I blasphemed, like my grandfather: God damn it, God damn it, God damn it. God never looked at me again” > Sarte’s REASON WHY an ATHEIST

WHO MOVED? GOD or SARTE? Atheist not that a person cannot believe, ATHEIST is a person who WILL NOT BELIEVE, HATES the God he Knows

WE KNOW OUR WRONGS / DEEP SEATED GUILT LINGERS
GOD USES NATURAL LAW, CONSCIENCE, & MEMORY to bring You

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

v. 6 “God will give to each person according to what he has done”
PRINCIPLE FOUND IN BOTH TESTAMENTS OF SCRIPTURE

SAVED BY GOD’S GRACE / JUDGED FOR OUR WORKS

v. 16 “God will judge men’s secrets through Jesus Christ”

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER “Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid”

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

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

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

2. Man and Judgment

a. Made to Judge

v. 2 “Now WE KNOW that God’s judgment is Based on Truth”
 WE KNOW THIS BECAUSE WE HAVE CAPACITY FOR JUDGMENT

PART OF BEING MADE IN GOD’S IMAGE / Rational, INTELLECTUAL
 Gen 1.26 God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over...all the creatures"

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

FOUNDATION of Paul’s DIATRIBE in Romans / Man can Think
 SHOULD USE HIS MIND TO LOVE THE LORD HIS GOD / Believe Word

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

b. Judgment distorted by Sin – man judges but does not judge RIGHTLY

2.1 “pass judgment” and “do the same things” // 1.32 BIG DIFFERENCE
 KNOW RIGHT / SECRETLY DOES WRONG / CLAIMS TO DO RIGHT

v. 3 “you, a mere man, pass judgment on them” NOT A GOOD THING

Gen 3.12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me--she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." MAN THE JUDGE PASSES JUDGMENT
 JUDGES GOD, WOMAN, EVERYONE EXCEPT HIMSELF

DALE CARNEGIE “How to Win Friends and Influence People”

POINTLESS to Criticize > people always have excuses

Al CAPONE Godfather of Chicago Mafia > “Public Enemy # 1”

“I have spent the best years of my life giving people the lighter pleasures, helping them to have a good time, and all I get is abuse, the existence of a hunted man”

Hardened Criminal like Capone THOUGHT TOO WELL OF HIMSELF

HOW ABOUT US GOOD, UPSTANDING, NICE PEOPLE HERE

DIFFERENCE BTWN “Judging” and “Judging” > NEIGHBOR “I like all religions – Buddhism, Islam, Xtianity – AS LONG AS THEY ARE GOOD”
 “I am not judging but I am judging”/ “My mind is open & it is closed”

BIBLE INSTRUCTS US TO MAKE RIGHT JUDGMENTS / Eternal Imptc.
 Rom 12.9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

Mt 7.1 "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged ... (Logs & Specks in Eyes)... THEN Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces. YOU MUST JUDGE
What are dogs and pigs? What are the Pearls what is Sacred?

JUDGING – One Word – Used Different WAYS & PURPOSES

Judging – synonym of CONDEMNING – lift self up by putting another down
 HAWAII – Black Crab – Climbs higher on Rocks on the Backs of Others

Judging – sincere motive – search for truth – impartial evaluation
 Lady Justice WEARS BLINDFOLD as she holds SCALES OF JUSTICE

FORMER – is Condemned by God / LATTER – is mark of Maturity of Faith

c. Judgment's Reality clouded by Blessings > Will be BIG SURPRISE

v. 4 Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

“riches of his kindness” = GOODNESS / Anglo Saxon word GOD // GOOD
 “God is good ALL THE TIME” > Part of UNCHANGING NATURE

James 1.17 “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows”

GOODNESS SEEN in *CREATION* “God saw all he made and it was very good”

GOODNESS SEEN in *PROVIDENCE* “God works all things together for good”

GOODNESS seen in *SALVATION* “Good News of our Lord & Savior Jesus X”

“tolerance” of GOD > Does not IMMEDIATELY IMPLEMENT His Wrath

“patience” of GOD > Bears with Sinners and their Folly

NOAH PREACHED 100 years > Warning his Generation of Judgment

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. BUT the day of the Lord WILL COME like a thief.” 2 Peter 3.9,10

GOD’S KINDNESS SHOULD BRING CONVICTION not COMPLACENCY
WRONG ASSUMPTION – All must be well, look how Blessed by God I am

Rom 11.22 Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness

3. Man Justified by God

a. Two Paths “good” and “evil”

1) *PATH of EVIL Ones* > Characterized by FIVE NEGATIVE THINGS:

v. 5 “stubborn and unrepentant heart” CONTRA humble and repentant

v. 8 “self seeking” CONTRA Jesus’ Great Command > Love God & neighbor

v. 8 “reject the truth” seen in Ch. 1 > Suppress, Exchange, Believe a Lie

v. 8 “follow evil” > SNAPSHOT 1.29>32 21 DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS

v. 9 “does evil” > Continuing DOWNWARD SLIDE INTO EVIL

2) *Path of the JUST* > WHAT DOES RIGHTEOUS LIFE LOOK LIKE?

v. 10 “everyone who does good” BE LIKE GOD = GOD IS GOOD

v. 7 “persist in doing good” > PERSIST = MAIN DIRECTION OF LIFE
WHAT IS ANIMATING FORCE LIVING DEEP INSIDE YOU?

JUDAS – some good things at end – “seized with remorse and returned the 30 silver coins (BLOOD money) ‘I have sinned for I have betrayed innocent blood’”
BUT LIFE IS CHARACTERIZED BY DECEIT AND WICKEDNESS

KING DAVID – bad dad, wandering eyes and emotions, acts of treachery
 BUT GOD CALLS HIM “a man after my own heart”
 SOME FIND THIS PART OF ROMANS VERY CONTRADICTIONARY

BASIS OF ETERNAL DESTINY v. 7 “doing good” / v. 8 “following evil”
 v. 6 “God will give to each person according to what he has done”

DOES THIS CONTRADICT THE THEOLOGY OF SALVATION??
 esp. the DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH??

HOW CAN ANYONE “persist in doing good,” “do good”??

3.12 there is no one who does good, not even one."
 3.19 the whole world (is) held accountable to God.

BUT in CHRIST – JEW and GENTILE CAN be GIVEN a NEW NATURE / 8.4,5
 “do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit... those who
 live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.”

GOD’S GOODNESS IN US IS PART OF THE PACKAGE OF SALVATION
 SAVED = New Covenant, New Record, New Heart, and New Nature

NO CONFLICT BETWEEN PAUL AND JAMES – Saved by Faith THAT Works

SOMEONE ROWING A BOAT
 NOT ONE FAITH / ANOTHER WORKS >> BOTH OARS FAITH
 FAITH AT WORK CREATES THE WAKE OF EVIDENT WORKS

SAME TRUTH THROUGHOUT ALL OF SCRIPTURE
 PSALM 1 > “Righteous man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or
 stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of scoffers”
 “Wicked are like chaff which the wind blows away”

JESUS tells Rich Young Man > Love God, love neighbor, sell all you have

Tells Expert in the Law > Love your neighbor, like the Samaritans

Judgment Day > Sheep and Goats > Criteria = What have you done for me?
 SAVED BY GOD’S GRACE / JUDGED FOR OUR WORKS

b. Two Destinations

1) Destination for the Evil

v. 8 “wrath and anger” GOD’S FIERCE & ABSOLUTE OPPOSITION TO EVIL

v. 9 “trouble and distress” OUTWORKING OF GOD’S JUDGMENT

Zephaniah 1.14,15 “The great day of the Lord is near, near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry of the day of the Lord will be bitter...that day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness”

2) Destination of the RIGHTEOUS ONES

v. 7 “glory” Transformation of Believer into Image of God’s Son

v. 7 “honor” God’s Approval of His Children / Heavenly Rewards

v. 7 “immortality” Christian’s Ultimate Expectation

v. 7 “eternal life” SALVATION Life in Heaven with God, will not Perish

v. 10 “peace” GOD’S SHALOM > Comprehensive and Eternal

SURELY WE CANNOT CHOOSE THIS PATH ON OUR OWN

BEST ADAM & EVE COULD COME UP WITH WERE FIG LEAVES

Oldest profession NOT PROSTITUTION > “clothing manufacturing”

GOD GAVE THEM CLOTHING FROM ANIMAL SKINS

ANIMAL = Picture of Sacrifice for Sin / Substitute ONE FOR EACH

SAVED BY GOD’S GRACE / JUDGED FOR OUR WORKS

GETTING ON THE RIGHT PATH

1. Recognize you are on WRONG PATH > hard thing to do

Esp. if you’re a MAN > Driver = NEVER LOST / Just Taking Long Way

WRONG PATH / leads AWAY FROM GOD to Destruction

2. *Admit Wrong Path WILL NOT CHANGE TO RIGHT PATH*

I know I am going wrong way, but if I keep going I will run into it
LONGER YOU GO, LONGER YOU ARE GOING WRONG WAY

Rom 1 > Wrong Path gets FARTHER and FARTHER AWAY from God

3. *TURN AROUND* > Move in Opposite Direction = REPENTANCE

REPENT = Change of Mind / Different Path Entirely

4. *Commit yourself to LORD JESUS CHRIST* / “He is the Way”

“If you confess with your mouth “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that
God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” Romans 10.9

Romans 2

1. You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.
2. Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.
3. So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?
4. Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?
5. But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.
6. God "will give to each person according to what he has done."
7. To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.
8. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.
9. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;
10. but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 11. For God does not show favoritism.
12. All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.
13. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.
14. (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, 15. since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)
16. This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.