



NOTES PAGE

TODAY'S MESSAGE:

Book of Romans: The Religious Condemned

Bob Schwahn | Lead Pastor | February 18, 2024

1. Our Judgment of Others

Romans 2:1-4 (NIV)

¹ You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, 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 human being, 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, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Matthew 7:1-5 (NIV)

¹ "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ³ "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

2. God's Judgment of Us

Romans 2:5-11 (NIV)

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 repay each person according to what they have 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.

1 John 4:18 (NIV)

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

3. Our Judgment of Ourselves

Romans 2:12-16 (NIV)

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 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) ¹⁶ This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

Romans 8:1 (NIV)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

"There are but two objects that I have ever desired ... to behold; the one, is my own vileness; and the other is, the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ: and I have always thought that they should be viewed together." – Charles Simeon

Reflection Questions:

Read Romans 2:1-16

- 1) What was one thing that grabbed your attention from the sermon?
- 2) Where do you find yourself standing in judgment over the sin of other people? What makes you shake your head at the culture around you? What is the meaning of the word judgment in the Bible? Does this mean we don't evaluate good and evil? Why or why not?
- 3) How would you evaluate the often used statement, "Love the sinner, hate their sin."? According to Paul in this text, what might be some problems with this statement? Bob suggested in his sermon we would be better to say, "Love the sinner, hate our own sin." Do you agree or disagree?
- 4) Read Romans 8:1. How does it make you feel that when we are in Christ (saving faith in Him) there is absolutely NO condemnation? Have you experienced the joy/freedom/gratitude that this truth produces? Why or why not?

- 5) Read Romans 2:5-11. What in this section does Paul say that seems to counter the gospel message that our salvation is based only on our faith in Christ? How do you explain this seeming contradiction?

FAITH -> GOSPEL (RIGHTEOUSNESS) -> DOING GOOD

(Trust)

(Obedience)

(Root)

(Fruit)

- 6) If you truly believed that obedience to the commands of Jesus were in your best interest, what step of obedience would you take? What steps of obedience are you hesitant to take? Why are you hesitant?
- 7) What evidence do you see in the world that people inherently have at least some sense of right and wrong? (Even if they don't know God or His commands.)
- 8) Think about the illustration of the invisible recorder from the sermon. What are moral judgments that you make that you have violated yourself?
- 9) From this text and sermon...
- What do you sense God is SAYING to you? (Hear)
- What are you going to DO about that? (Obey)



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