

God's Righteous Judgment – Romans 2



MEMORY VERSE: ... 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?
Romans 2:4

DAY 1 ROMANS 2:1-5 — The Judgement of God

1. Why is it wrong to pass judgment on other people? vv.1-3
2. How is God's heart in judgment different than our own? vv.4-5
3. Why might we "presume" on God's kindness, forbearance and patience?
4. Can you think of a time when you were impacted by someone who treated you with kindness, forbearance and patience?
5. What insight do the following verses give you regarding judgment and hypocrisy?
Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28

Matthew 7:1-5

DAY 2 ROMANS 2:6-11 — God's Impartiality

6. What is God going to do because of His justice? v. 6
7. Describe the character and fate of a person who is a true God-seeker. v.7

LEARN THE TRUTH

It is easy to condemn others whose lives seem more sinful ours. But focusing on other's sins instead of our own is hypocritical because we are all actually guilty of the same sins. Ask God to help you admit your own sin and to be kind and forbearing with others as God always is with you.

8. Describe the character and fate of the one who is merely a self-seeker. v.8
9. Why do you think the words, “practice” or “persist,” are often used to describe the lifestyle of both those who live for God and those who live only for themselves?
10. Why might the fact that God shows no partiality or favoritism be encouraging to some but frightening to others?

DAY 3 ROMANS 2:12-16 — Law vs. Heart

11. What truth applies to everyone regarding salvation or judgment through obedience to God’s Law? vv.12-13
12. The Jews were given God’s law, but the Gentiles (non-Jews) were not. Why is it just for God to judge Gentiles for sinning when they weren’t given the law?
13. What amazing truth is revealed in verses 14-16?
14. What do you think determines whether one’s own conscience can be trusted?
15. Do you find your conscience to be reliable? Why or why not?

DAY 4 ROMANS 2:17-24 — Dishonoring God

16. In what did the Jews of Paul’s day take great pride? vv. 17-20
17. What was God’s plan for the Jews when He first called Abram (Abraham)? Genesis 12:1-4

18. What were the Jewish leaders guilty of doing, and failing to do? vv. 21-24

19. Jesus had harsh words for hypocritical Jewish leaders. Do you think His words apply to anyone besides the people in His day? Matthew 23:27-28

20. Why is God's name blasphemed among non-believers because of hypocritical people who claim to know God?

DAY 5 ROMANS 2:25-29 – The Heart of the Matter

20. What was God's purpose for commanding that Jewish males be circumcised? Genesis 17:9-11

21. What does Scripture teach about true circumcision and what makes a person a true Jew?

22. What do circumcision and baptism have in common? Colossians 2:8-15

23. What in your life- circumcision, baptism, bloodline, good works, good intentions, knowledge, common sense, experience... might you be tempted to rely on in place of Jesus Christ?

24. How is God speaking to you to help you honor instead of dishonoring His name?

LOVE THE TRUTH

Praise God for His kindness! Instead of judging others, repent of your own sin and have His law written on your heart. Then you will have joy and purpose. "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10

Romans 2

God's Righteous Judgment

In Romans 2, we see two kinds of judgment, the just judgment of God and the hypocritical judgment of man. Those who reject God by choosing sin over salvation do deserve death, but it is God's place, not ours, to condemn others for eternity. God's kindness is meant to lead people to repentance, so they may be forgiven and become part of God's family. Human judgment is selfish. It justifies one's own sin, forgetting God's mercy while condemning another. Such hypocrisy is worthy of the wrath of God. "Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!" James 2:13 NIV

We also see two kinds of "works," those of the flesh and those of the Spirit. We are told that God will render to each one according to his works. Those who trust in their own works of the flesh and refuse to follow God will die. Jesus said, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." John 6:29 The works of the Spirit do not result **in** salvation but are the result **of** salvation. Those who do the work of seeking after God will have glory, honor and peace.

Paul also contrasts two kinds of people- hearers of the law and doers of the law. One might hear the law and know it well because of upbringing or education, but still miss the point and choose to ignore God's will, presuming to be entitled and beyond accountability. On the other hand, doers of the law may not have the same advantages as the hearers of God's law, but they desire truth in their inmost being and so God writes His law on their hearts. Every person ever born has a fair opportunity to accept or reject the grace of God, to be a hearer of the law or a doer of the law.

The Jews have a unique relationship with God as His "chosen" people, set apart for the purpose of drawing the world to Himself through them. But they grew prideful, believing they had the advantages of the law,

their bloodline and the ritual of circumcision. Failing to obey God and value the truth they had been given, they became hypocrites, doing the very things for which they judged others. Instead of sharing the blessed truth of God with the world, their lives and attitudes turned people away from God and brought dishonor to His name. The Jews are not the only ones who can be guilty of this! Every one of us can fall into this trap. When we are in Christ, we too are "chosen" by God (1 Thessalonians 1:4). "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28 We all must show mercy and bring honor to God.

WALK IN TRUTH



While it is wrong to pass judgment on others, Paul actually instructed believers to judge the extremely sinful behaviors of those within the body of Christ. This is difficult and painful, but is meant to bring a brother or sister in the Lord to repentance and restoration to Christ. Paul also said that when that person repents, we must forgive them take them back into fellowship. (1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 2:5-8)

Like the people in Paul's day, we can condemn others and fail to appreciate the kindness God has shown us. We can strive in the flesh rather than rest in His saving grace. We must decide if we want to be hearers of the law or doers of the law. Doers of the law have God's law written on their hearts and this is seen in the way we view and treat others. Christ's sacrifice not only saved us FROM sin, but saved us FOR a new rewarding life full of purpose and promise. Walk in this truth and your life will match your beliefs and others will be drawn to God.