

Beware Hypocrites... We are all Guilty

Romans 2:1-5 “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. ² We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. 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? 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? 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.

❖ Recap Chapter 1

- Center on the Theme of the Gospel
- Our Biggest Danger is the Wrath of God
- Why are we in such danger?
 - Our Sins.
- Vs 14 – 32
- Remember the theme of the book...
 - It is the gospel

❖ Today: What is Paul doing?

- He wants to make sure every body know they are guilty...
 - Everybody...
 - I think, he likely has people who teach others to do no wrong in mind...
- **Remember...** Here is a time when the gospel was in its beginning stages...
 - He is not writing to a group of Christians that had been a church
 - For 100 years...
 - He is writing to people so that they will understand the meaning of the gospel
 - The purpose of the gospel
 - The need for the gospel..
- **When Paul finishes up:**
 - He is going to make sure everybody on the planet
 - That reads this book...
 - Will walk away thinking...
 - ◆ Paul is saying that everyone is guilty... everyone is deserving of the wrath of God
 - ◆ From the teacher of the law to the hypocrite to the sexually immoral to the murderous to the disobedient to children...
- **Here in 2:1-5 He is heading somewhere...**
 - And I think it culminates....
 - I think He is leading up to say something...
 - But He doesn’t say it until chapter 3.... And it is a very famous verse... you know it well
- **Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”**
 - So... He is going to talk about sin a lot...
 - And He is going to leave us all standing there staring at this particular verse...
- **Chapter 2 is going to take a big look at hypocrites...**
 - You know how much you don’t like a hypocrite right?
 - Well... its very likely that you are one as well...
 - But... you will see that paul is addressing the hypocrite...
 - The one who marches around telling everyone they are wrong and sinful...

- ◆ But, living in sin themselves...
- Let's look at verse 1

❖ 1) No Excuse

- **“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.**
- **Define Judge or passing judgment**
 - To form an opinion of something by examination...
 - So... it means... you look at something and say... hey... that is wrong
- **Define condemn**
 - To pass guilt and a punitive sentence...
 - Like a judge would say... John doe... You are found guilty by this court...
 - ◆ And you are punished with life in prison and no parole
 - Back to the verse...
- **Therefore.... What?**
 - Look back at 1:28-32
- **You have no excuse**
 - What does he mean they have no excuse?
 - It means they have no defense for their own actions...
 - Why do they have no excuse...?
 - They are doing the exact same things...
- **Isn't that what He is saying here?**
 - **You... the judge, practice the very same things...**
- **In fact... look at what He says...**
 - That when they pass judgment... they are in fact bringing condemnation upon themselves...
 - **For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself,**
 - **And why do they condemn themselves? Look...**
 - **because you, the judge, practice the very same things.**
 - **Also notice... the passing of judgment is aimed at someone...**
 - On another... on another person...
- **Illustration:**
 - What can this be compared to:
 - It's like those kids who were tattling on their friend...
 - ◆ They are all sitting around this watermelon...
 - ◆ Enjoying it... eating it up...
 - ◆ An adult walks by and says... where did u get that watermelon?
 - Saying... little johnny went where he wasn't supposed to...
 - ◆ And He stole a watermelon... and he shouldn't have... he deserves to be punished...
 - All the while... filling their faces with watermelon...
 - **Anyone** see a problem here? Of course... they are eating the stolen watermelon
 - That they know is stolen... so are in fact stealing themselves... with every bite..
 - **Now...** do you see something else...
 - they also judge themselves when they judge johnny's actions...
 - He shouldn't have done that... and he should get in trouble...
 - ◆ Well... by doing this... they are saying... we deserve punishment too...
- **This is what Paul is showing here...**
 - When we pass judgment on others...

- When we see their unrighteous deeds and pass judgment on them...
 - We in turn condemn ourselves...
 - Why? Because we have done the very same things...
 - **When Paul says the very same things...**
 - He is pointing to that list of 21 sins...
 - And He is not saying everyone has done the exact same sins at the exact same frequency...
 - **He is though...** making the point... that all of these things
 - Come from **a debased mind...**
 - **They are all things that ought not to be done...**
 - **How can we not do this...**
 - Well... I think that is the point... I do not think we are capable of not passing judgment...
 - I think Paul is trying to put everyone... EVERYONE Guilty before God...
 - **Why does He want everyone to see themselves as guilty before God?**
 - Because I think He wants them to run back to 1:16
 - **One more thing?**
 - How should we apply this verse to our lives right now?
 - One... I think we should see our guilt before God and run to the gospel...
 - Two... don't set yourself up as a judge... don't place yourself higher than other sinners...
 - The moment you do that, is the moment you condemn yourself...
- ❖ 2)
- **² We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.**
 - Paul... then does something interesting...
 - He judges... doesn't he?
 - **We know**
 - Meaning... we have a knowledge about the judgment of God...
 - **The judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things...**
 - Paul is making a very clear point here...
 - From what He knows about God... and the Word of God...
 - And about sinners...
 - Paul knows... that it is right for God's judgment to fall on those...
 - **Who practice such things...**
 - What things?
 - ◆ Look at the list...
 - **Important:**
 - Judging is not a cut and dry issue...
 - Paul looks to be speaking against those who judge, yet then He judges...
 - And He is also judging the judges by writing and saying...
 - That they condemn themselves...
 - **But, I think Paul is trying to educate us... to teach us...**
 - He is saying... we can know what things are wrong...
 - ◆ That is not the problem...
 - We also can know that people are wrong in their actions...
 - ◆ That is not a problem
 - We can also rightly say... that God will punish them for those wrong actions...
 - ◆ That is not a problem...
 - **The problem comes when we elevate ourselves to the level of judge...**
 - As if we were morally superior to other people...
 - Look at what He says next...

❖ 3) Ignorantly Ignorant

- 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?
- **If I were to sum up this verse in two words... Ignorantly Ignorant**
 - Why? Because... they are ignoring there very on words...
 - People that do this... are blind to themselves...
- **Do you suppose, O man**
 - So Paul is asking them... have you reasoned in your mind...
- **You who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself...**
 - Uh oh... Paul claims that ONE... they judge people who practice sin...
 - And two... that they know they do those very same things...
- **But... they think something very ignorant...**
 - They think... that they will escape the judgment of God...
- **Paul is doing His best to make sure that even these people who judge others...**
 - That they know they are guilty as well...
- **Illustration:**
 - We can go back to the kids eating watermelon...
 - They assumed that if the judged the wrongness of Johnny's actions...
 - That they would be spared...
 - But... this is not the case...
- Paul is bringing everyone to **Chapter 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"**
 - Where He will also say this:
 - Romans 3: "None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." ¹³ "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." ¹⁴ "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." ¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known." ¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes." ¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.
- **Please... don't make the mistake...**
 - Of hearing all of this... and then saying... man... those kinds of people are bad...
 - You are those kinds of people

❖ And we will finish this up next week...

- I want to spend a little more time on verses 4 and 5

❖ 4)

- 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?

❖ 5)

- 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.

❖ Closing

- **How do we respond to these verses...**
 - With humility because we are sinners
 - We are not better than anyone else... no better

- With thankfulness if we have been given the grace of God
- With graciousness toward sinners because we are no different or better
 - Except for the grace of God
- With love for sinners
- With compassion toward those who are lost and in deep sin...
- **Paul says**
 - **1 Corinthians 10:12** ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.
- **And finally...** we should respond by running back to Verse 1:16
 - It is the gospel that brings salvation to our sinful soul...

❖ Invitation