

(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. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man --- you who judge those who practice such things and do them yourself --- that you will escape the judgment of God? 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. 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.

(9) 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. For God shows no partiality.

Think on These Things

- 1) Chapter 1 finished describing the sinful turn of mankind by rejecting God as Creator. Chapter 2 begins with a warning. Who is being warned, and why?

Christians are being warned NOT to become judgmental about those who reject God and practice sexual perversion and inventing evil (1:30). The warning in v. 1 is about hypocrisy, judging them while secretly doing the same things.... The list of evil activity in Romans 1:28-30 from debased minds covers many more evil practices than sexual perversity.

- 2) Some Christians believe it is never right to judge others. Read Matthew 7:1-5; Romans 14:1-13, 17-19; and 1 Corinthians 14:1-4 with Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 6:1-5, Galatians 6:1-5, and James 5:19-20. What do you think about judging after reading these passages?

(Matthew 7) How we judge others will be used as judgment against ourselves. Romans shares we should not be critical of how others serve the Lord and practice faith, but find ways to edify and encourage one another (1 Corinthians 14). Offenses between believers should be handled privately between the two (Matthew 18), and then raised to the church leaders if reconciliation is elusive (1 Corinthians 6). When believers sin, church pastors and elders should seek to restore them gently to the faith (Galatians 6); those who respond will have their souls saved from spiritual death.

- 3) The flaw of judgment exposed in verses 1-3 here in Romans 2 is what? What do we call people who do this (see Matthew 5:7 and 23:27-28)? What presumption is scary (v. 3b)?

Many times, the things we see and go after in others---believers and non-believers---are the very things we ourselves struggle with. Jesus called this behavior 'hypocrisy.' The warning of Romans 2:3b is, "If you do the same things, do you think you will escape the judgment of God?"

- 4) How does someone despise God's riches (v. 4)? Consider 2 Peter 3:8-9 in your answer.

“Despising God’s riches” is the sin of ‘presumption’ that Christians sometimes do. It is for people who ‘presume’ upon the grace of God, i.e., “if I do this wrong thing now, I can always repent and ask God for forgiveness later.” We are lying to ourselves if we do this! As it says here in v. 4, “God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance” (not sin).

This is particularly a snare for believers in Calvinist churches that believe, “Once saved, always saved.” If God has saved me, and I cannot be lost and go to hell, then it doesn’t matter how I live now...God has promised He will still accept me! To borrow a term from drug and alcohol recovery, this is “stinkin’ thinkin’.”

- 5) When Paul speaks to stubborn and unrepentant hearts in v. 5, who is he speaking about, the sinners of Romans 1 or people judging them in Romans 2? Explain, remembering who Paul is writing this letter to. What are they doing to themselves for God’s Day of Wrath and Judgment?

He is speaking to people who are judging others (Romans 2). Romans 1:18 says the wrath of God will be revealed against ALL ungodliness and unrighteousness, and 2:5 says that believers who feel self-appointed to go after those practicing ungodly, perverse actions in chapter 1 and the other evils in vs. 28-30 that they themselves may be guilty of, will find their own hearts being hardened and impenitent and --- eventually subject to God’s wrath upon themselves!!

- 6) In the Book of Life used at the Great White Throne judgment (Revelation 20:11-15), the unbelieving world will be judged according to works because their names are not recorded within. How are Christian works judged (see Ephesians 2:8-10 and 1 Corinthians 3:10-15)?

Ephesians states that God has saved people and ‘appointed’ to each one of them good works they are expected to do. 1 Corinthians states that God will Himself judge each believer’s good works to determine if they were genuinely for God’s Kingdom...or self-serving. After He applies His fiery scrutiny, those whose works survive will be rewarded.

- 7) To whom will God give glory and honor (v. 7), and to whom will God show wrath and anger (v. 8)? What do those who practice evil now --- as they live --- get to look forward to in v. 9?

Those who patiently go about doing well will receive glory, honor and eternal life. Those who are self-seeking and disobedient to God’s truth will be subjected to God’s wrath and fury. Those living evilly here-and-now (v. 9), will do so with tribulation and distress in life.

- 8) What do you make of the phrase, “to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”? See v. 11, and consider 1 Peter 4:15-19.

Perhaps God is making it clear that whether judgment or reward, His decisions will be impartial (the standard is the standard) --- beginning with His chosen people, and then the rest of the world. There will be NO partiality. 1 Peter says God’s judging will begin with the ‘household of God.’

People and situations I want to pray for this week: