

Sin and Condemnation: The World's need to get right with God

(51)

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[Romans 1:18-3:20](#)

(Continuation from 11/06/16)

C. God's Case Against the Moralist: Judgment, [Romans 2:1-16](#)

[Romans 2:1-5 \(NASB\)](#)

¹“Therefore you have no excuse, every one of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

²And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.

³But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same *yourself*, that you will escape the judgment of God?

⁴Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

⁵But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

[\(Romans 2:1-16\) Introduction:](#) this is one of the passages that covers several subjects and can be studied from the viewpoint of any one of them. It is an excellent study on **judging, criticizing others, the judgment of God, self-righteousness, the moralist, and the legalist.** It also deals with the judgment of the heathen, and answers the question so often asked: “What will happen to the heathen, to the person who never hears about Jesus Christ?” ([Romans 2:11-15](#)). The present study is entitled: “God’s Case Against the Moralist.”

1. [The moralist \(v.1\).](#)
2. [The judgment of God is according to truth: perfect justice \(v.2-5\).](#)
3. [The judgment of God is according to deeds: eternal reward or punishment \(v.6-10\).](#)
4. [The judgment of God is without respect of persons: absolute impartiality \(v.11-15\).](#)
5. [The judgment of God is to be executed by Jesus Christ and His gospel \(v.16\).](#)

2. **[\(Romans 2:2-5\) Judgment— God, Misconceptions of— Man: the judgment of God— of the only living and true God—is according to truth.](#)**

[Romans 2:2-5 \(NASB\)](#)

²“And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.

³But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same *yourself*, that you will escape the

judgment of God?

⁴Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

⁵But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”

Romans 2:2 (NASB)

²“And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.”

Romans 2:2 (NKJV)

²“But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.”

God’s judgment will be executed in perfect justice. The word “**truth**” or “**rightly**” (*alētheian*) means true as opposed to false. It means what really is; what actually exists; what exactly takes place. God’s judgment is *perfectly* just, exactly what it should be, nothing more and nothing less. His judgment is based upon...

- a. what really happens.
- b. what the facts are.
- c. what actually takes place.
- d. what a person really is within his heart and what the person actually did.

1 Samuel 16:7 (NASB)

⁷“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God *sees* not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’”

God knows the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; therefore, He will judge according to truth. His judgment will be perfect, conforming exactly to our deeds. It will match our deeds perfectly.

Note four points.

1. The moralist thinks he will escape. His offense is much greater, for he is like all other men: sinful and short of God’s glory. Yet he criticizes and judges those whose failures are discovered and exposed, and he thinks he will escape. He forgets that God sees the *inner recesses* of the human heart, and that God will judge men not only for their deeds but for their thoughts...

- a. for the lust of the flesh.
- b. for the lust of the eyes.
- c. for the pride of life (**1 John 2:15-16**).

1 John 2:15-16 (NASB)

¹⁵“Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes

and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”

Matthew 23:33 (NASB)

³³“You serpents, you brood of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell?”

Luke 12:2 (NASB)

²“But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.”

John 2:25 (NASB)

²⁵“And because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.”

1 Corinthians 4:5 (NASB)

⁵“Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.”

1 Thessalonians 5:3 (NASB)

³“While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.”

Hebrews 2:3 (NASB)

³“How will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard.”

Numbers 32:23 (NASB)

²³“But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the LORD, and be sure your sin will find you out.”

Ecclesiastes 12:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”

2. The moralist thinks God is too good to punish. When he thinks of God, he thinks of the riches...

- a. of God's goodness (*chrēston*): His kindness and grace and love.
- b. of God's forbearance (*anochē*): His refraining, holding back, abstaining and controlling His justice.
- c. of God's longsuffering: His suffering a long time, being patient and slow in judging sin.

God, of course, is all this and much more. What the moralist fails to see is that God's goodness...

- a. is not a blank check for sin.
- b. does not give license to sin.
- c. does not condone sin.
- d. does not indulge sin.
- e. does not overlook sin.

God's goodness is to lead men to repentance, not to sin. The fact that God *will* forgive sin should stir men to seek forgiveness and to please God. If a man goes out and sins, thinking that God will just overlook and forgive his sin, he is despising God's goodness. He is taking God's goodness and making it a sham, a mockery, a joke, a thing of indulgence. The man who *despises* God's goodness—who sins thinking God will just overlook and forgive his sin—is wrong. He is mistaken. God does not just overlook and forgive his sin; He does not condone, indulge, nor give license to his sin. God will judge him and the judgment will be according to the truth.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NASB)

⁹“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,
¹⁰ nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

¹¹ Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”

1 Corinthians 15:33-34 (NASB)

³³“Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals.

³⁴ Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame.”

Galatians 6:7 (NASB)

⁷“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”

Ephesians 5:6 (NASB)

⁶“Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”

1 John 3:7-8 (NASB)

⁷“Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous;

⁸ the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.”

3. The moralist thinks man is basically good. He thinks that man can be good enough for God to accept. He thinks God looks for the good in man and that within each man is *enough good* for God to accept. The moralist thinks that God's goodness accepts man's...

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| a. good works | d. good feelings |
| b. good thoughts | e. good nature |
| c. good behavior | f. good tendencies |

God, of course, is pleased with whatever good is in man. But what the moralist fails to see is that *God's goodness is perfect*. It cannot accept...

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Series: The Book of Romans

- a. any imperfect work
- b. any foul thoughts
- c. any evil behavior
- d. any ugly feelings
- e. any corruptible nature
- f. any sinful urges

God can only accept perfection. No man is perfect: not in **nature, thought, or behavior**. Therefore, all men are unacceptable to God. No man is good enough to be acceptable to God, no matter how good he is. The goodness of God is to lead men to repentance: to turn men to God for righteousness, *not to declare man's self-righteousness*. The fact that God allows men to repent should stir men...

- a. to confess their imperfection and self-righteousness.
- b. to seek God's righteousness which is in Christ Jesus the Lord.

Thought 1. Most people think that God will accept them, that in the final analysis they are good enough for God to accept them. They never dream that God will reject them, not when everything is said and done. What they fail to see is that God's judgment is based upon truth—the truth of what a person's thoughts and motives are, of what is really within a person's mind and heart. God's judgment is based upon the truth of a person's *imperfect nature and behavior*.

Romans 1:21-22 (NASB)

²¹“For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”

²²“Professing to be wise, they became fools.”

2 Corinthians 10:12 (NASB)

¹²“For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of those who commend themselves; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding.”

Galatians 6:3 (NASB)

³“For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.”

Proverbs 20:6 (NASB)

⁶“Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, But who can find a trustworthy man?”

Proverbs 26:12 (NASB)

¹²“Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.”

Proverbs 28:26 (NASB)

²⁶“He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But he who walks wisely will be delivered.”

Proverbs 30:12 (NASB)

¹²“There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes, Yet is not washed from his filthiness.”

Obadiah 1:3-4 (NASB)

³“The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to earth?'”

⁴“Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down,” declares the LORD.”

4. The moralist hardens his heart against the judgment of God. He refuses to repent. He just cannot accept the fact...

- a. that he is not good enough for God to accept.
- b. that God’s goodness and love would ever condemn him.

But note the term “**righteous judgment**” (*dikaiokrisias*), which means just, fair, impartial, correct, exact. God’s judgment is a judgment that should be, that should and will take place. In fact, God must judge, for God is love. As love, He must straighten out all the injustices on earth. He must right the wrongs and correct all the injustices of men. He must judge men with a perfect and “**righteous judgment.**”

Note also the term “**treasurest up**” (*thēsauroizō*), which means to store up, to heap up, to lay up. The man who hardens his heart and refuses to repent stores up more and more wrath against himself in the Day of Judgment. The fact is clearly seen. Just think how terrible it is for a man to rebel against God’s goodness. He has the glorious privilege of knowing God’s goodness, of hearing His goodness proclaimed day by day, week by week, month by month, and year by year. Yet he despises God’s goodness, refusing to repent and rejecting God’s goodness time and time again. His rejection is bound to store up wrath against himself. His judgment is bound to be greater than the judgment upon a person who has *never* had the privilege of hearing about the goodness of God.

Luke 12:49 (NASB)

⁴⁹“I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled!”

John 3:36 (NASB)

³⁶“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Romans 1:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”

Ephesians 5:3-6 (NASB)

³“But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints;

⁴and *there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.*

⁵For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”

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2 Peter 2:9 (NASB)

⁹“*then* the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment.”

2 Peter 3:7 (NASB)

⁷“But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.”

Proverbs 29:1 (NASB)

¹“A man who hardens *his* neck after much reproof Will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.”