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Series: The Book of Romans

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

(53)

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

(Continuation from 11/20/16)

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

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

<sup>1</sup>“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.

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

<sup>3</sup> But 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?

<sup>4</sup> Or 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?

<sup>5</sup> But 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 \(NASB\)](#)

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

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<sup>3</sup> But 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?

<sup>4</sup> Or 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?

<sup>5</sup> But 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.”

In doing so, he presents six principles by which God judges sinful men: **knowledge (v. 1)**, **truth (vv. 2-3)**, **guilt (vv. 4-5)**, **deeds (vv. 6-10)**, **impartiality (vv. 11-15)**, and **motive (v. 16)**.

## Principles of God’s Judgment--part 1 ([Romans 2:1-5](#))

### What Goes Around Comes Around

[Romans 2:2-5](#)

In [Romans 2:1](#), we addressed the issue of judging. What is judging and what is spiritual discernment? As we continue to wade into the stream of the second chapter, we are reminded again that what goes around comes around. We do reap what we sow. If we judge others, we too, will be judged. Notice.....

#### I. THE CONFIDENCE—[Romans 2:2](#)

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

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

Paul says, “**We are sure or confident.**” He is sure about what? The answer is the judgment of God according to truth against those who commit such things. What things? The answer, “**judging others.**” We are judged by the truth.

[Psalm 31:5 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>5</sup>“**Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth.**”

[John 14:6 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>6</sup>“**Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”**”

Since we are judged by the truth, we are without excuse, without a defense ([Romans 2:1](#)). The coming judgment of God is either dreaded by men or denied, but it’s coming is as certain as a crooked tree will have a crooked shadow.

[Acts 17:31 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>31</sup>“**Because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.**”

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Man's judgment is partial and prejudiced. God's judgment is pure and complete. There is no fooling the Lord.

**2 Corinthians 5:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup>“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

The principles being discussed here are principles about judgment, not salvation.

## II. THE CONSEQUENCES OF OUR CALCULATIONS—[Romans 2:3](#)

**Romans 2:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup>“But 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?”

The phrase “do you supposed this” comes from the Greek word *logizomai* which means “to calculate, reckon, or estimate.” It forms our English word “logic.” If you are calculating the fact that you will escape God's judgment, then you are greatly mistaken. What goes around, comes around. Your sin will find you out. The self-righteous tend to falsely calculate their own righteousness.

**There are four ways of escape which are open to a man who breaks human laws.**

1. His crime is not discovered.
2. He might escape beyond the jurisdiction of the court.
3. If arrested, he may allude to judgment through a legal technicality.
4. After a conviction, he might escape from prison and stay in hiding.

None of these are possible avenues with God's judgment. With the Lord, your offense will be discovered. You cannot escape God's jurisdiction. There will be no legal technicalities to free you. The only way of escape is through the grace and mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other way of salvation.

The Chinese illustrate this truth rather well in their word for “righteousness.” It is made from two emblems: 1) **sheep**, 2) **me**. The message is the Lamb of God died for you and me. We are righteous because of faith in Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 3:8-9 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup>“More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, <sup>9</sup> and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the Law*, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith.”

**2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup>“He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

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### III. THE CONSIDERATION OF THE LORD—[Romans 2:4](#)

[Romans 2:4 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>4</sup>“Or 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?”

Instead of asking, “Why do bad things happen to good people?” we should be asking, “Why do good things happen to bad people?” The answer is God is considerate and good to us even when we don’t deserve His goodness. He is good to us because He is good.

[Psalm 145:9 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>9</sup>“The LORD is good to all, And His mercies are over all His works.”

The purpose of God’s consideration and goodness is to gently draw us in repentance to Himself, not drive us away. He used a cross, not a club because of His love for us.

[2 Peter 3:9 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>9</sup>“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

Men are ungrateful to God for what He has done for them. Some are ungrateful because they claim credit for their accomplishments. They have the “*I did it all*” attitude. Some men are bitter at God. They blame Him for their problems. Some are ungrateful to God because they consider Him not necessary or important.

I was listening to an interview on the History Channel about WW2. During WW 2, a young army captain was hit by enemy fire while dragging a seriously wounded sergeant to safety. Both men were taken to the army hospital. The captain died, but the rescued sergeant survived and recovered. The parents of the captain invited the sergeant to their home for dinner. He accepted the invitation, but when he arrived, he was not only late, but drunk. He acted rudely and selfishly. He wolfed down the food and left without saying anything about the man who saved him or thanking the parents for their hospitality. After he left, the mother broke out in tears and said, “To think that our son had to die for an ungrateful person like that!” Beloved, this is what Jesus Christ did for us. He died even for the ungrateful.

[Romans 2:4 \(NASB\)](#)

<sup>4</sup>“Or 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?”

Paul said, “**they think lightly of the riches.**” This word “**think lightly**” or “despise” is the Greek word *kataphroneo*. It means “*to underestimate the true value; to look down one’s nose at a thing; to treat with contempt.*”

Men also despise God’s “**tolerance.**” The word “**tolerance**” means “*a holding back; a willingness to tolerate the intolerance of others.*” This word was used of a truce of arms.

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*It implies something temporary which passes away under a new condition.* God's wrath is put in suspension or on hold with sinners. He has a truce for now with sinners. His wrath will come unless the sinner enters a new condition of repentance and obedience to the Lord by trusting Christ as Savior. God in His tolerance is giving men time to repent. He waited 120 years before He sent the Flood in Noah's day. He waited 800 years before allowing rebellious Israel to be taken into captivity. After the cross, he waited 40 years before scattering the Jews and the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D. If you are away from God, do you realize He is waiting for you?

**Romans 2:4 (NASB)**

**<sup>4</sup>“Or 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?”**

Men also despise God's "patience." What does this mean? The word "patience" means "*a slowness in avenging wrong. It is a patience which forgives until there is no more hope for repentance.*" The person with long suffering has power to avenge, but does not use that power. He delays his vengeance upon an enemy or his punishment upon a criminal.

Do not think that the fact that God does not punish your sin is a sign that He cannot or will not punish you. A lack of immediate punishment is not proof of the powerlessness or apathy of God. God in His mercy, goodness, and kindness is giving you time to repent. Time will run out one day. Will it be today? Don't spurn God's love for you! What goes around does come around!

#### IV. THE CONCRETE HEART—**Romans 2:5**

**Romans 2:5 (NASB)**

**<sup>5</sup>“But 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.”**

A hard heart leads to a hard future. That issue is addressed here in this passage. The word "stubbornness" comes from the Greek word *sklerotes* which means "*hardness.*" The medical term *sclerosis* comes from this word. *Arterio sclerosis* means "*the hardening of the arteries.*" Hardening of the arteries may take you to the grave, but hardening of the heart will take you to Hell if you reject Christ as your Savior. The Bible warns us about hardness.

**Hebrews 3:8 (NASB)**

**<sup>8</sup>“DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS.”**

The hard-hearted person treasures up wrath. What does this mean? The word "storing up" or "treasurest" or "treasuring up" means "*to gather, heap up and store up wrath for himself.*" God's tolerance delays His wrath. If you are going through tough times now because of your sinful lifestyle, you have not seen anything yet when it comes to God's wrath. You are saving up wrath for yourself as a person saves and stores his money in a bank.

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Payday will be someday for the unbeliever. What goes around comes around. If you reject the Lord now, you will be rejected after you die.

**Matthew 10:33 (NASB)**

**<sup>33</sup>“But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.”**

In the days of the pioneers, when men saw a prairie fire approaching, what would they do? The fastest horses could not outrun the fire. Here is what they did. They took a match and burned the grass in a designated area around them. Then they would take their stand in the burned area and be safe from the threatening fire. As the roar of the flames approached and surrounded them, they would not be afraid because the fire had already passed over the place where they stood. When the judgment of God comes to sweep men and women into Hell for eternity, there is one spot that is safe. Nearly two thousand years ago the wrath of God was poured out on Calvary. It was there that Jesus took the wrath of God that should have been poured out on us. If we take our stand at the cross, we are safe for time and eternity. Have you put your faith in Jesus Christ to take you to Heaven?