

Romans 2:1 (Part 1)

¹Therefore thou art inexcusable, *O man*, whosoever thou art that judges...

Q: Who is he speaking too? What man is this?

Read 2:1~29...makes it clear...he is speaking to the Jew...

2:1 marks a transition point... Paul is speaking to the second of two groups of people he is writing about, concerning the subject of the “*Wrath of God*” which he started back in 1:18...¹⁸For the *wrath of God* is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Verses 19~32, describes a certain group of people, while chapter 2 describes another... Chapter 1 speaks to the general public, “*society*”... Those who claimed no *religious affiliation* with Jehovah...

It’s really the answer to the question...

What about those who never attended church, those who’ve never heard the bible?

What about them? Well, Paul has made it clear, that even without the “oracles” of God, they “*know enough*” to come to know God, *for God has shown it to them through creation...by the things that are made*... So they are “*without excuse!*”

In verses 21~32, Paul points out the “*true reason*” of their “*Ungodliness & Unrighteousness*”.
They “*Willfully*” and “*Deliberately*” SET ASIDE the truth that God has shown them, what they know to be right, to follow the desires of their hearts...their own will and ways

Its not they don’t know better, they just reject what’s right, and fulfill the desires of their heart! Thus, the result is, they “Hold the truth” in unrighteousness... And Paul says it is for that reason, they are under the judgment of God!

To sum up 1:18~1:32... These verses speak of a “*Godless Society*...” A society that lives for pleasure, for wealth and comfort... A society that gives itself to whatever its heart desires... A society that grows evermore increasingly sinful and perverted...

Paul says... God will hold these people *accountable* for their actions!

Their sin has separated them from God...left unchanged, they will suffer the Judgment of God!

(Vs 1) Now, knowing that truth... Anytime you see a “*Therefore*...” you must see why it is there for...

¹Therefore thou art inexcusable, *O man*, whosoever thou art that judges...

Knowing what I just told you... To know this truth, yet condemn them, *is inexcusable!*

To look out on man dying in his sin, knowing the Judgment of God on such, it ought to break the heart of the people of God. They ought to weep for them, it ought to stir up compassion...*not condemnation!*

But not this man! The man who looks on the “*Sin Saturated Society*” and condemns them...

Paul is writing to the Jew... The one who was raised up in the heritage of his forefathers... His whole life was conformed around the synagogue, around the writings of Moses. He was taught the traditions and

the customs of the religion of his ancestors... This man would pray three times a day, faithfully attend all of the Jewish festivals honoring God, and on and on...

This man has never realized the “*Utter depravity*” of his own heart! His “*Righteousness*” and right standing with God is based on his service and affiliation to the things of God. He’s not like those “Sinners” out there in the world, living in their filth!

Listen... Paul declares, the man with such a heart, is “*Inexcusable!*” He too, will undergo the same Judgment, as the sinful society he condemns! Despite all his “*apparent goodness*”, despite his “*religious*” upbringing... this man will die under the wrath of God!

(Vs 1) *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judges: for wherein thou judge another, thou condemn thyself; for thou that judge doest the same things.*



I need you to listen very closely... I’m not teaching a “*truth*” this morning, that you are to take and conform your life too... This is not a message of teaching you that you need to be more loving. This is one of those passages, that was given by God to test a mans heart! To see whether you posses “*genuine salvation*” or not! This is not an area we can improve on...the only possible way to look on sinful society and have compassion on them, is to have a heart that has been changed by God...we can’t do this...



The man who condemns...is a condemned man!

Period... A condemning heart is a manifestation of *an unchanged heart*... (2:28~29)

This passage is a warning **that God will punish sinners...no matter where he finds them!** Whether he finds them out here in society committing the most wicked and shameful atrocities that we can imagine...or whether he finds them in the church! God will deal with “*Every Man*” who holds the truth in unrighteousness...

Here in verse 1, he very clearly exposes the religious man, the self-righteous man whose heart has not been changed by the grace of God!

(Vs 1) *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judges: for wherein thou judge another, thou condemn thyself; for thou that judge doest the same things.*

Something I need to make clear here... This “*Judging*” is not that of “*Discerning Right & Wrong...*” For as Christians...we have the responsibility and obligation of proclaiming right & wrong among the society in which we live, by proclaiming the word of God as the standard!

This is “*Judging*” in the context of condemning someone! Declaring them to be worthy of punishment... Worthy of no mercy, to suffer the consequences.

(Vs 1) *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judges: for wherein thou judge another, thou condemn thyself; for thou that judge doest the same things.*

Paul is speaking to the man who attaches himself to the service and worship of God... The man who is not associated with the kinds of people Paul just spoke about in 1:18~32... This man, is an upstanding man in society... He is a good moral man, one who treats people fairly, lends a helping hand to those in need, the man who would give you the shirt off his back...

The man Paul is talking about here, would hear the “*Gross immorality*” of Paul’s message, and give a hearty AMEN! **This man is against such people!** He will have nothing to do with them... Condemning those who live that way...

T Paul seems to hint that this man is under “Greater *Condemnation*”... For having aligned himself with the service and worship of God, having the knowledge of the “*oracles*” of God, and yet to look on the “utter depravity of man...” Knowing the “*impending judgment of God on man...*” knowing that, yet condemning them instead of reaching out to them...INEXCUSABLE!

This man manifest that he doesn’t have a clue what scriptures teach, nor does he know the living God! For this man’s heart is hard, unmerciful, and condemning! He does so in light of his own self-righteousness, his own goodness. He sees himself right with God, while the world is wicked & deserves what they get!

This man will argue his goodness, by his abstaining from the world...

He’s not like “*Sinful Society...*” He worships God, he gives his tithes, he prays...

Paul describes this man, as one who has not been touched by the grace of God...

⁴Or despise thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leads thee to repentance? ⁵But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasure up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; ⁶Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

It is easy to see, by looking at this world, that they aren’t right with God... But its much different within the religious world... Its not so obvious... And as a matter of fact, looks can be deceiving. Paul makes his point at the end of this chapter...

²⁸For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: ²⁹But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

A Jew may attend synagogue, partake in the religious ceremonies, keep the commands, etc... And yet not be a child of God. The same is true within the church today... I’m convinced & concerned that many have been baptized, joined a church, partakers in the activities of the church... Good, moral people... People who have grown up in church, people who have been raised to do the right thing... Yet, they are people who have not experienced the “*New Birth*”, the changed heart Paul is speaking of here, which only comes through Christ!

Paul’s concern is, that though a man may have the “*outward appearance*” of being right with God, he may not be... You may not be involved in alcohol abuse, drug abuse, sexual perversion, etc...like the society around us. You may attend church on occasion, even giving into the plate... But that does not make you righteous before God! That doesn’t exclude you from the wrath of God...

Tragically, like the Jews to which Paul is writing...many are convinced that they are right with God, because of their goodness, their righteous lives... They are not like the world, they don’t drink, they don’t do drugs, they have never committed adultery, and they certainly would never commit homosexuality!

This man may appear right, but will reveal his wicked, unchanged heart, by having the “*wrong view*” of the world...

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Being “*Religious*” benefits no one... Actually, its does just the opposite, it makes a man feel good about himself. It tends to puff him up... He starts seeing himself as righteous... He’s not like the world...right?

But religion only makes his heart hard...manifest by his unloving, unmerciful attitude toward those dying in their sin...

T: The people, and the sin that Paul has been speaking too in 1:19~32, should bring “*remorse*” and “*compassion*” from the people of God! **Not Condemnation!**

It should break our hearts for those in sin! This is a passage that teaches, you can’t truly Hate sin, and not love the sinner! A man who has the right understanding of sin, will have a broken heart for those who are living in it!

(Luke 19:41) Paints one of the most “*beautiful images*” of the Lord Jesus in all of scripture to me.

⁴¹*And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it...*

It speaks of the last time Jesus would enter Jerusalem... He came up to the gate know as the eastern gate, and saw the city, Jerusalem. Knowing what lie waiting Him on this trip, he was broken for those in their sin. Unconcerned with what they would do to him, he was concern with what was going to happen to them! He never thought about himself...his thoughts were not of his soon pending death on the cross... But rather, the pending death of those dying in their sin.

To me...there’s not a greater “*picture*” of God than this one... God Himself, walking on the earth He created, bent over on his knees, weeping for his people...

How do you see “*Society?*”

For God so loved sinful man... He sent His Son...

Jesus loved sinful man so..... He laid down his life for them...

What about you... What’s your view of man in his sin?