

Romans 2:1 (Part 2)

Does this passage mean, that we are not to declare Right & Wrong, calling sin...sin?

Does this mean I shouldn't say anything to someone who is living a lifestyle that is contrary to scripture?

It's not for me to Judge... you ever heard someone say that, or make that statement yourself?

I sense there is a lot of confusion in this area... Tonight, with the help of the Holy Spirit, and the word of God, I hope to clear up the confusion... God is not the author of confusion, but Satan.

A "*confused*" person, is someone who doesn't know what to do... This seems to be the biblical attack that Satan launches on God's people. He seeks to make us doubt what God has said, leaving us to wonder if we'd be right in doing it!

"*Judging*" is an area that many Christians are confused in... And as a result of this confusion, the witness of God in the earth has been greatly hindered!

I want to give you two important truths concerning "*Judging*..."

1) This passage teaches that we are not to Judge the lost in sin...

In the sense of condemning them, to damn them...

This is speaking in the sense that we should see them as someone "without Christ", and having compassion on them...

The man's heart who has not experienced the GRACE of God, will condemn such men because of his self-righteousness, due to the hardness and callousness of his heart! But the Christian, the one who recognizes his own sin, is filled with sorrow for them, they are broken in spirit for their soul...

So, we see this passage teaches that we are not to Judge the lost in sin...

In the sense of condemning them, to damn them...but be broken for them, and try to reach them...

But there is a second truth taught here concerning "judging" that we MUST understand...

2) As Christians, we MUST declare the truth, what is right & wrong...

★ **To understand this passage, we must first identify the sin, the unrighteousness...**
...that **Paul himself is condemning**...

I don't know if you caught that or not...I didn't at first, and I almost missed it altogether...

Paul is "*Clearly Judging*" those who "*Judge Others!*"

Right?... Paul is "*Clearly*" declaring "*this man*" to be under the wrath of God...

He declares "*this man*" to be "*just as guilty*" as the wicked of society!

...for thou that judges doest the same things.

Paul is pointing out the erroneous ways of this man! And thank God for that... If Paul had not "*judged*" this mans ways, this man would have died in his sins, *thinking he was right with God!*

Q: Do you understand the implications of Paul's statement here?

How many Jews have died... convinced they were right with God?

How many "disagreed" with Paul? Did that make them right? The TRUTH is the only thing that will stand.

Jesus said, "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks..." The condemning words out of this mans mouth is a **DEAD GIVEAWAY!** This man has a hard, calloused, unchanged heart!

Regardless of this mans claims, regardless of this mans religious activities...this man is DEAD IN HIS SINS! Just as the one's that he condemns in society! And he too...is under the wrath of God!

That really puts everything in its proper perspective... Now 2:1 is better understood...

(2:1) *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judges: for wherein thou judges another, thou condemn thyself; for thou that judges doest the same things.*

The 1:18~2:16 section, Paul is declaring on whom the "Wrath of God" abides... From 1:19~1:32, he has been speaking to "society" in general. Those who claim no real religious affiliation... But here in 2:1, Paul moves into the realm of those who do claim religious affiliation... This verse is a warning...

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...

★ To correctly understand this passage, one must first identify the sin, the unrighteousness that Paul himself is condemning... Paul points to a specific sin, that has this man under the judgment of God...

Q: What is it... What is the Sin that Paul is pointing to in this man, that will ultimately bring upon him, *the judgment of God*?

Pride... The "Ugly, disgusting, vile" sin of Pride...

The best way I know how to describe Pride, is to compare it with its counter part...Humility...

Pride.....is FULL of SELF...

Humility...is EMPTY of SELF...

The "Ugly, disgusting, vile" sin of Pride... is not a sin you hear confessed very often. One may speak of stealing, drugs, alcohol, sexual perversion, etc... But what about pride?

Every now and then you meet a man who enjoys the reputation of *being the most remarkable person he knows.*

The man who thinks too much of himself *usually thinks too little of others.*

Conceit is a strange disease: it makes everyone sick except the person who has it.

PRIDE IS SELF-EXALTATION....It's ludicrous for any Christian to believe that he or she is the worthy object of public worship; it would be like the donkey carrying Jesus into Jerusalem believing the crowds were cheering and laying down their garments for him. **CHARLES COLSON**

C. S. LEWIS ...Pride is spiritual cancer; it eats the very possibility of love or contentment, or even common sense.

One man has correctly stated, that pride is the root of all sin!

Illustration... The tree and its branches & leaves, are the acts...while Pride is the roots of that tree...

As a tree is the result of a seed...Sin is a result of a man filled with self...

That's why Christianity is a message of "*denying self...take up the cross and follow Jesus...*"

We turn from ourselves to follow God!

Christianities Cure for sin...is to turn from self!

Whosoever will save his life...shall lose it. Whosoever will loose his life for my sake shall find it...

This man's sin is *Self-Righteousness*...

He has declared himself to be right with God... He does so on the bases on his goodness, his adherence to the law of God. Which is really, the ugliest of all sin... This man has the same wicked heart that society has...yet, he sees himself as so much better than them. He's not like them, he would never stoop that low...etc.

Matthew 7:1~6...Jesus said the exact same thing...as Paul did here in Romans 2:1...

¹Judge not, that ye be not judged. ²For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. ³And why behold thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but consider not the beam that is in thine own eye? ⁴Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye?

Jesus was speaking of the "*Self-Righteous*" Pharisee... Who was quick to see the sin in others, just not his own! The same self-righteous Pharisees who condemned Jesus for "*Being a friend of publicans and sinners!*" They declared Jesus to be "unholy" by befriending the publicans and sinners, all the while, they *sneered down their noses* at them in *disgust!*

Luke 15...¹Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. ²And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receives sinners, and eats with them. ³And he spake this parable unto them, saying, ⁴**What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?**

- The lost sheep...The lost coin...The lost son...

This is not a story of a Christian gone bad!

This is a story of "*Rotten Religious*" men! Ones who had no love, no compassion on his brother who was dying in sin! All they could do is proclaim their goodness, and talk about their brother like a dog!

Luke 18...⁹And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹²I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. ¹³And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

SAMUEL BUTLER (1612–1680)...**The advantage of doing one's praising for oneself is that one can lay it on so thick and *exactly in the right places.***

Luke 7...³⁹Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw *it*, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman *this is* that touches him: for she is a sinner. ⁴⁰And Jesus answering said unto him, **Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee.** And he saith, Master, say on. ⁴¹**There was a certain creditor**

which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. ⁴²And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most? ⁴³Simon answered and said, I suppose that *he*, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, **Thou hast rightly judged.**

D.L. MOODY ... God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves.

These are just a few examples in scripture of the type of man Paul is referring to in Romans 2:1.

According to Paul... all these are condemned men! Even though they are religious... God will still pour out his wrath on them...

Back in Matthew 7, Jesus concluded...

⁵Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye. ⁶Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

A drowning man can't help a drowning man... Only a man who has realized the utter sinfulness of his heart, and has been humble by his sin, and the grace of God, is able to see correctly those in our society who are living in sin...

Beloved... it is imperative that as Christians, we have the right view of those out in society, living in sin. We must see them for what they are... lost without Jesus! As sheep having no shepherd...

What about sin in the church, should it be tolerated or condemned?

1Peter 4:17~18... 1Co.5... Mt. 18... We are to send a clear message to society... God will judge sin!

But for society, we are too show compassion, not condemnation!

You would never scold a blind man for being blind...

But at the same time, we must boldly proclaim the truth! Some feel that they can't boldly state what is right and wrong. That is not what Paul or Jesus meant when they said... "**Judge Not...**" For in that same chapter, just 15 verses later, he tells his disciples how they will recognize false teachers... *By their fruits!*

Judging good and bad, right and wrong is a must for Christians... Actually, it is a way of life, we are to be people of truth! We must be to lead others to Christ!

They were speaking of condemnation, not discernment, not matters of right and wrong! For as Christians, we are the only people on earth who possess truth! Not our truth, for we have renounced that as darkness... But we possess the truth of God, in the word of God!

We must judge what is right and what is wrong... For that is the only way we will reach them. They must come to realize their lost-ness before they will ever seek to be found!