

Romans 2:2~3

For several weeks now, we have been looking at this very important section of scripture concerning... **The Judgment of God**... Over and over in the scripture, we are reminded about this certain, future judgment of God upon man... It is referred to by many names throughout scripture... The “*Day of the Lord*”, the “*Day of vengeance*”... Paul refers to it here in 1:18, as the “**Wrath of God**...”

¹⁸*For the **wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness...*

From 1:18~2:16, Paul makes reference to this Judgment or Wrath of God in some form over 15 times... Concluding his point in 2:16...by declaring Jesus Christ to be the Great Judge of all men, who will judge every man according to truth, according to the “*secrets*” of the heart!

Hebrews 9...²⁷*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

This Judgment is described in detail in the 20th chapter of Revelation...

Revelations 20...¹¹And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead, which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

2Timothy 4:1...¹I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2Thessolians 1...⁷And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, ⁸In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, **and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ**: ⁹Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Now listen... Man will be held accountable for his sin...

It is “*extremely*” important that we understand this... Because the society around us, has this philosophy, that since there is no immediate retribution for there sins...*that they are getting away with it*. There seems to be this sense, that since God does not seem to intervene and judge the wickedness of men...that there is no judgment...

(Ecc. 8:11~13) Solomon says just that...¹¹Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore *the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil*.¹²*Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: ¹³But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he fears not before God.*

Just because a certain lifestyle or manner of life is becoming more and more accepted and practiced in society, people tend to think that its ok...

(Malachi 3) This thought had even infiltrated the “*Religious Spectrum*” in Malachi’s day
¹³Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken *so much*

against thee? ¹⁴Ye have said, *It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?* ¹⁵And now we call the proud happy: yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

¹⁶Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. ¹⁷And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son that serves him. ¹⁸Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serves God and him that serves him not.

God is not overlooking man's sin, He's not indifferent towards man's unrighteousness, towards man's disobedience... **it's not OK with God**... Paul makes it clear, that *nothing could be farther from the truth!* God WILL JUDGE the "*Unrighteousness & Ungodliness*" of men...

T: This passage reveals "**WHY**" God does not Judge speedily... The only reason God does not execute His Judgment on us immediately... *is a result of "The Goodness of God..."*

(Vs 4) ⁴*Or despise thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leads thee to repentance?*

What unregenerate men see as "apathy," as "God's seemingly indifference" toward their sin... is actually the "*forbearance and longsuffering*" of God in their lives... In other words, *little does he know it*, but the one who is living in sin, is experiencing the grace of God...

Beloved... It is but by the "*Goodness of God*" that any of us are here this morning!

I'm afraid, we have "*lost much of our sight*" of the goodness of God! We ought to be a "*praising people*" a "*thankful people*" knowing God's goodness and Grace towards us!

It is by the "*Goodness & Grace of God*" He doesn't strike us dead **upon the conception of sin!** God has every right to squash us like a bug! But, out of *His Goodness*, his forbearance, his longsuffering... *he restrains his Judgment*....

(2Peter) Peter says as much... ⁶Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: ⁷But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. ⁸But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. **(But Peter makes clear...)** ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Now listen... **God will judge**... and God will Judge when Jesus Christ returns!

It is "*extremely*" important that we understand this... **God is "NOT SLACK" in His Judgment on man... but rather God is "LONGSUFFERING" towards man!**

To think that God is indifferent to one's disobedience and unrighteousness, to think one's "*getting away*" with it, *is the farthest thing from the truth!*

Paul reveals to us here in verses 4~5, by what is actually taking place...

⁴*Or despise thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leads thee to repentance?* ⁵*But after thy hardness and impenitent heart*

treasure up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

T: *Treasure up*... Paul says that far from “getting away” with it, we are “Storing up”... “Man’s account” is just adding up, getting larger and larger... Paul makes it very clear, that every man will be held accountable for every act of unrighteousness, every act of disobedience! Paul says that what is really happening is, man is “storing up” Judgment!

God WILL JUDGE the “Unrighteousness & Ungodliness” of men...

Paul has broken down his “warning of Judgment” into two sections... In 1:19~32, Paul has been speaking to the “general public” the “pagan society...” Those who have no “religious affiliation”, those who do not attend any “religious institution.” Paul speaks to how they worship material things, how they walk in foolishness, it speaks of sexual perversion, etc... It speaks to the “depravity” of mans heart!

Here in ch. 2, Paul moves to the second group of people who are under the “Wrath” of God.

As far as “outward appearances” go, they appear clean and right before God. Unlike the society around them, they do not drink, they do not do drugs, they do not cuss, etc... Quiet the contrary; they abhor what the society around them has come too. These folks would hear the message in 1:19~32, and fully agree with Paul, and even Amen.

It’s a warning... That God will punish sinners... no matter where he finds them!
Whether they be found in the deepest, most vile, disgusting sin in society... or in the church!

The “Cloak” of religion will help no one! It’s easy to look at society and reason that they will undergo the judgment of God... It’s obvious that what they are doing isn’t right, and they will answer to God for their unrighteous deeds! ***There’s no doubt!*** And that’s exactly what Paul says in verse 2...

(Vs 2~3) ²But ***we are sure*** that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. ³And think thou this, O man, that judges them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

Paul says...It’s obvious they will certainly be held accountable for their Unrighteousness!
...**but how will you escape it?**

Verse 3 is a “Heart Checking” Question!

There’s only two ways to answer that question!

- 1) One, you must defend your innocence... by pointing to your goodness!
- 2) Or, you must admit your “**Guilt**...”

I don’t cheat, I don’t lie, I don’t cuss... I go to church, I always try to do what’s right...

He can’t imagine that God would Judge him! This man, Paul is speaking too would find it utter “repulsive” of Paul to think for a moment, that God would judge them! He’s not like “sinful society,” he would never stoop to the disgusting levels of those people, he condemns such activity...

This person **quote**, “believes” in God... I don’t have time this morning, but Paul will continue with this thought... In verses 6~10, Paul states that... “**God will render to every man according to his deeds...**”

You may say...hold on preacher... Salvation comes through “*Faith and Faith alone...*” And that’s true. Many have this “deranged” idea, that one can “*believe*” on Christ, and live how you want too... Not So! According to James, “*Genuine Saving Faith*” produces works! In short, “*Faith in Christ*” will change one’s life! He will have a “*new heart*”, with different longings, different desires, etc... That will be manifested in his day to day life...

“*Outwardly*” this man appears right with God... *but reality is...* **He is dead in his sins...** He may honor God with his lips...*but His heart, is far from God...* Because he looks on “His own goodness”, his “*heart is hardened*”...revealed in his condemnation of society!

He may know the scripture...but reveals, he doesn’t truly understand it! True to scripture, he is “*puffed up*” by his knowledge... He is a “**Judge of Sinners...**” He’s never been humbled by the “*Goodness & Grace of God...*” When in reality...if he knew the grace of God, he would be broken over them! He’d understand, that “*their sinfulness*” is only a manifestation that they are “*Without God!*” That they would suffer and die if they do not repent...

But not this man... This man has been raised in church all his life, he doesn’t drink, he treats people fair, overall, he’s a good person...He has the same heart as society does...but has no idea of the “*depravity*” of his own heart... Yet he has convinced himself, through religious activity, his outward adherence to the law of God, he thinks he’s ok with God!

The sad and ironic thing is... *His goodness, not his wickedness, will be his downfall...*

You may be here this morning...and you may be “*the man*” Paul is speaking of... You realize, your hearts not right...because this passage describes you to a T! You may have been raised in church... You may attend somewhat regular... You may be honest in your dealings, you don’t drink, don’t cuss... You’re not like society, you believe in God, you’re a good person... **right?**

I’m sure, that if God “*Judged*” on the basis of man’s “*Goodness*”, you might well be ok... But He doesn’t! The “*only hope of escape*” is to trust in “*God’s Goodness...*”

(1:16~17) ¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

The “*Goodness of God...*”