

Romans 2:4~5

From 1:18~2:16, Paul makes reference to this Judgment or Wrath of God in some form over 15 times... Paul is speaking to the day in which Jesus Christ, the *Great Judge*, will judge every man...

Paul reveals several “*Critical*” truths concerning this judgment...

According to verse 2, that this judgment will be according *to truth*...

According to verse 6, this judgment will be according to *a man’s deeds*...

According to verse 11, this judgment will *be without partiality, completely fair*...

According to verse 12, this judgment will be according *to knowledge*...

According to verse 15, this judgment will *even include our conscience and our thoughts*...

He concludes in verse 16, by stating...

(Vs 16) ¹⁶In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

...the secrets of men ...ΚΡΥΠΤΟΣ...ΚΡΟΟΠ-ΤΟΣΘ

The private: the hidden, the inward, the secret. That which is concealed, that which is covered...

The point is, this will be a very “*thorough*” investigation! Nothing will be overlooked, nothing left unchecked... God will take a “*scrutinizing*” look at man...

Listen, if there’s any *unrighteousness* there at all... God will find it in that day!

Paul lays out the “*divine*” principles of judgment... True principles...principles that WILL be the Standard used to Judge men! Such a “*Standard*” might cause even the most righteous of men *to re-evaluate* themselves...

And that’s just the point... Paul is pleading with “*His People*” Israel!

With each verse, Paul’s intention is to bring them *to the saving faith* in Jesus Christ! But before he can do that, he must convince them of their need...

Paul is writing to the man, who is convinced that “*his goodness*”, his adherence to the law, his clean living, his upbringing, will justify him in the Day of Judgment!

(3:9~12) ⁹What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; ¹⁰As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ¹¹There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God. ¹²They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Paul’s intent is clear... EVERY MAN is GUILTY before God!

Therefore, is condemned to suffer the Judgment of God! NO ONE is righteous, ALL are guilty!

For 3 chapters, Paul has been working his way to this point! Because, until a man understands he is sick, he’ll never go to the doctor. Jesus speaking to the religious Pharisees...

(Mt. 9:12~13) ¹²But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, *They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick...* ¹³But go ye and learn what that means, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

All the way until 3:20, it is “*Bad News...*” Speaking of guilt, judgment, death...

3:21 marks the “turning point!” ²¹*But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;* ²²*Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:* ²³*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;* ²⁴*Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:* ²⁵*Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*

“*The Good News...*” For the one who has repented of his sin, and put his trust in Christ... this is not a day of dread, but one of great anticipation... Not in the sense we are confident that we have lived so that we will escape God’s wrath... But rather, because of the longing in our hearts to see the one who died for our sins! We will behold the face of the one who took our place, and took upon Himself the wrath of God for our sins, providing for us, a way of escape! *What a day, a glorious day, that will be...*

The New Testament, the new covenant... could be summed up in three words...

The “*Goodness of God...*”

Hear me... Religion is a dangerous thing! It gives a person a false security of “being right” with God!

It’s not simply a book of “*Truths*” that we “conform” our lives too... It’s not a list of things we should and shouldn’t do... To simply see it as a book that we are to conform our lives too, **would be to miss the whole point!**

As a matter of fact... Paul tells us, adherence to the law only hardens our hearts!

Some of the most “unkind” and “hateful” almost “mean spirited” people I’ve met have been those who attend church. Like the man Paul is speaking too, they’re “judgmental”... “unforgiving”... “unmerciful”... I believe it’s a result of being “miserable... their bound to something they don’t enjoy!

Scripture is given to show us God... It is the “*revelation of God’s Goodness*” towards man in Christ Jesus!

It is in Christ, that we “See” God’s goodness, His graciousness to us, His patience...

(Jn 14) Jesus told Philip... *If you’ve seen me, you have seen the Father...*

To see Him in that manner stirs up our hearts! It stirs up thankfulness, gratefulness... PRAISE!

God’s goodness and grace “overwhelms” us... It moves us! It’s what Paul meant when he said at the end of verse 4, that it leads us to repentance...

(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?*

Repentance means, “to turn...” In context, it is speaking of sin, unrighteousness, and disobedience... Paul is saying, that the “only hope” of man to “Turn from his sins” is to have his eyes opened, to see “*The goodness of God...*”

The lives of those who “*Follow Christ*” are radically changed, **not** because they “*Know Bible Principles*”... but rather because they “*Know God!*”

God is so Good... There's only one thing better than sin... and that's God! Having my "Eyes" opened to God, is what changed my life! Whatever God did that day, back when I was 25 years old, has forever changed me! I no longer "Want" to sin, I no longer "Desire" the things I use to! Actually, it grieves me when I think of those things, that I use to love...

God allowed me to "taste" of his goodness... and you know what! Nothing else compares!
Bottom line... I will seek what "*Satisfies me...*" and guess what... *He satisfies me!*

The "*Goodness of God...*"