

[Romans 2:1 – 22]

~ Many people live in a world of abject unreality. Even fundamental conservative Christian's today become absorbed by television, computer games, social internet and all manner of devices and gadgets that steer their thinking in a particular direction. These distractions allow one to escape not only from feeling the need of a sincere, Spirit-filled, Spirit-led Bible teaching presented by a man who genuinely believes God – but from the reality of an empty life and meaningless existence as well. Man will pursue every simple “*learn-it-quick*” scheme under the sun. They deem themselves internet grad students and reject whatever theory or philosophy that doesn't suit them; and they become as children who close their eyes believing what they can't see isn't real.

On the other extreme, there are those who argue what they are totally and completely ignorant of until they are blue in the face. They insist on their ignorance – all while contending they don't need anyone to teach them! Well, the unbeliever won't escape the judgment of God – unless they accept His remedy for their sins. I pray this report will help each of us face reality and deal with our issues in an honest manner; particularly those who cannot even say the Name Jesus Christ! Once again, this lesson will not be nice, I promise you that. In this report, we are going to learn very definitely that self-righteous people will be judged harshly by the Lord. So, it will do us well to learn the six tremendous principles of truth by which God is going to judge....

1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

~ This is likely one of the most misunderstood chapters and verses in Scripture. Chapter one set forth the unrighteous man; and here we have the self-righteous man. We *MUST* keep that shift in dynamics in mind. Paul is *NOT* talking about salvation in this passage. Paul is talking about sin and the basis on which God judges men. I can tell you I wouldn't want to come

under this judgment, so I thank God for my Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Scripture presents the Gospel as the only means of attaining deliverance from this judgment and subsequently receiving eternal life. To reject the Son of God only perpetuates judgment and wrath upon a soul – and the only verdict ever handed down in His courtroom is *GUILTY!* He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son hath not life! Jesus saith, *“he that heareth My Word and believeth on Him that sent Me hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation but is passed from death unto life!”* Most people stop reading at John chapter three verse sixteen but there’s a whole lot more to it.

John 3:17 *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God ~*

John 3:36 *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him ~*

See, friends, if you are bi-passing the Lord Jesus and trying to get to salvation some other way – you’re just as lost as the darkest heathen in the deepest jungle of South America. You may be a good and religious person but, without Christ as the centerpiece of wisdom, judgment and discernment – you’re lost. The word in verse one of chapter two of Romans for “*man*” is “*anthrop*,” and it is the generic for man and woman, to be clear. This includes Jew and Gentile and refers to mankind – the human race – in general.

When Paul says, “... *whosoever thou art that judgest*,” he moves from a generalization to that which is specific; from the masses to individuals. It still means any person of the human race, but it is now limited to those who judge others. The idea carries the intent of an adverse verdict. The word “*judge*” can be interchanged with “*condemns*” another person. This is where those who mix and mingle grace and law get into real trouble. See, the attitude of a believer towards the group mentioned in this passage should be a desire to see them become saved. We should attempt to teach

the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ to them. An old hymn says, “*rescue the perishing and care for the dying.*” Well, I understand most people will not grab the life raft you throw them – but some will. We should make them know we want them to have salvation and be delivered from the gross perversions of religiosity and pious immorality; but we must *NEVER* compromise the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ according to Scripture as our foundational truth.

When Paul says, “... *the same things*” in verse one, that does *NOT* mean identical things; but it does mean things that are just as bad in God’s sight as the things done in awful depravity by the heathen and the lost. See, many people can tell you all about the sins of other people, but they have no recognition of their own sins. Those people usurp the place and glory of God Himself. Quite frankly, they’re the most difficult to reach; usually impossible. Most of them decide other people aren’t even fit to live – usually those who disagree with them. People condemn the communist and the radical while they do equally as wrong things – just in a different way. We need to be super-duper careful about that. It doesn’t matter what you do or don’t do in a societal aspect, because that standard varies greatly across communities, cultures and countries. If someone doesn’t reach the heights of what you consider right in your group and you condemn them, then you are worse than they are.

There are saints who condemn other believers and consign them to the lowest regions of hell for any number of things they don’t agree with. They’re worse than gossips and liars rolled into one! There are many churches where you can get by with lying, gossiping, neglect of Scripture and being dishonest – but you won’t get by drinking a glass of wine on a holiday, for example! See, by the same token you judge others who don’t meet your religious standard, God has the right – and declares here that He will exercise His right – to judge *YOU!*

The world and universe are subject to *HIS* standard, friends – not your standard. There are many who believe they are well-pleasing to God but are actually an abomination to Him. If we could see ourselves as God sees us, we wouldn’t be able to stand ourselves. We are obnoxious, repugnant,

cold and indifferent lost sinners, according to Him. Friends, you and I aren't going to make any contributions in Heaven. Some people seem to think Heaven will be a great place when they get there to improve and update things. Well, the earth hasn't been a better place because you were here; so, what makes you think Heaven will be better with you there? This ought to move us profoundly because I have discovered I cannot rise to God's standard. If God hadn't sent His Son to die for me, I wouldn't stand a chance. Maybe you think you would? God says you're just like me....

2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

~ The judgment of God is an experience the apostle Paul was closely familiar with. Not only did he believe it, he *KNEW* from experience that the judgment of God was a reality of this life. Multitudes today live and operate in the most unrealistic realm imaginable. There are so many today who are liturgical to the bone, but they will *not* hear the truth of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. They usually insist on a Hebrew name for God, but they cannot bring themselves to utter the Name of Christ. The other extreme are those who say they only want Bible study. As they start out, it is usually thrilling; but when they get into it they discover what John discovered in Revelation about judgment: the Word of God is sweet in the mouth, but bitter in the belly. The nitty-gritty truth of the Bible gives most people spiritual indigestion. That's usually when they go on tangents about the Torah or calling God names no one can pronounce properly. It would be laughable if it weren't so deeply tragic. I hear many so-called Christians speak incessantly saying they want Bible study, but they never seem to get around to joining me for it. Well, that's between them and the Lord, of course; but I also know something of the reality of God's judgment in this life. And it disturbs me to watch so many simple-mindedly pass on to it. Yes, it troubles me deeply.

Again, this is one tremendous principle of judgment, but it is *NOT* a principle of salvation. Man has an inherent knowledge that he must be judged by a "*higher power.*" The judgment of God is something every lost man either dreads or denies. The Scriptures are clear there is a day coming in which God will judge the world in righteousness by His Son Whom He

hath ordained! That will be another one of our assurances that Christ has been raised from the dead, too, by the way. Remember, Paul attempted to reason with Felix about righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come; and Felix was frightened to death. In fact, Felix didn't want to hear another sermon from Paul. The judgment of God is in total contrast with man's judgment. Man does not have all the facts, so his judgment is partial and prejudiced. God's judgment takes in all the facts and is complete. In this passage, the thought is concerning the actual *state* of mankind.

If you pick some cotton and bring it to the gin, the man that weighs it isn't going to ask you how you picked it or where you picked it; and you won't be asked to whom it belongs. The man that weighs it is simply going to assign it a numerical value on a scale. Well, God says, "*thou art weighed in the balances*" which means judged in and by the Word of God. The man who boasts of his morality is always amongst the worst sinners in society. It is amazing how the depraved person knows they will be judged but are confident they'll escape said judgment as they deem themselves better and different than anyone else. See, most people believe Hitler and Stalin ought to be judged; but they think they should be exempt from an equal judgment. Friends, God is going to judge the lost based on His determination of His subjects. Do you want to stand before God on that basis? I don't. Our only hope is Christ....

3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

~ As far as I can tell, every criminal on the face of the earth feels like they are either innocent or ought not be punished for their crimes. I participated in a jail ministry one time, and I never dreamed everyone in there could be innocent. Those who did admit to a crime always seemed to believe they were still wonderful people because they confessed and are willing to move on. It's easy to causally overlook our spiritual murder and religious mayhem. Many are completely blinded and don't see it *AT ALL!* The liberal thinks our prisons are filled with a bunch of innocent men who ought to be set free for whatever reason.

Well, there are four steps in the criminal mind: First, they thought their offenses would not be discovered. Second, when it was discovered, they think they might run away beyond the jurisdiction of the court. Third, when they are arrested, they assume they will uncover some legal technicality which will cause a break-down in their legal procedure. Fourth, after being convicted and sent to prison, they think they will appeal and sue the state for wrongful imprisonment. Some are successful on that path, to be fair; but I hate to tell you this: none of those legal avenues are available when we come before God. Our offenses will have already been published. The only determination remaining will be our disposition. We can't escape the jurisdiction of God; there are no technicalities. The condemned will never escape eternal torment! How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? ~

4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

~ The goodness of God should bring the believer to their knees in reverence, repentance and worship of Christ before our Father in Heaven; but it doesn't. In fact, His goodness seems to drive men *away* from God. That is a mystery to me. David was deeply disturbed at how the wicked prospered. God didn't seem to do anything about the heathen nations around Israel:

Psalm 73: 3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ***4*** For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. ***5*** They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men. ***6*** Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment. ***7*** Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish. ***8*** They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily. ***9*** They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth. ***10*** Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. ***11*** And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High? ***12*** Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. ***13*** Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in

innocency. 14 For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning. 15 If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. 16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; 17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end ~

The wicked shall be judged – you can write that down. If you have never accepted Christ, don't think I'm the one that's going to take anything away from you! I could not care less what you do or don't do. If you want to do drugs – go kill yourself – get drunk and hire prostitutes every night, then that's between you and the Lord. I don't approve of those things, and I don't think you should do them, but it's none of my business – you don't report to me – you do whatever you want to do. If you reject Christ, and your hope and pleasure is of this world, then you better suck it dry while you can. That's my advice to those who choose to willfully continue rejecting Christ. Eat, drink and be merry because tomorrow you die. However, if you know you need a Savior from that today, He is available; but understand He is going to judge righteously....

5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

~ Anyone reading this report – saved or unsaved – knows God has been very good and has blessed you. If His goodness and mercy has not been received by you, your judgment will be that much worse! If you neglect to support sound doctrine but continue on top of your world in gluttony day after day – don't expect to escape the judgment of God. Alright, I realize I have stressed this point ad nauseam, and most people probably stopped reading a long time ago....

6 God will render to every man according to his deeds:

~ Verse six means God will render rewards to every man according to his works. Absolute and irrefutable judgment is the criteria of reward. Your deeds stand before God in His Holy light. No man in his right mind wants to stand in judgment on this basis! Cornelius was a good man, but he was lost.

Alright, as we read on here we have a series of things that are coming up for judgment....

7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

~ Here we have a tremendous principle from the Old Testament; and this is not going to sit well with many readers. Those who think they are “*highly favored*” or think they have some special connection to God outside of the Word of God – you, too, are heading for judgment.

Deuteronomy 10: 17 For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward ~

God is no respecter of persons, friends; Simon Peter had a rude awakening when he entered the home of Cornelius. Again and again, God makes it clear He doesn't play favorites. Those are the games man plays on this forum on which I teach; but not God. God has no class pet. Every man and woman are identical before Him. Lady American Justice wears a blind fold so she may not see men dressed in silk or rags. Having a good family, a church membership or even having a fundamental creed bring you no merit before God Almighty, friends. Even if you think you are a “*daughter of the king,*” you're just like any other man, woman or child on the face of this earth. You either have Christ as your Savior, or you don't....

12 For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

14 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

15 Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another)

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

17 Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,

18 And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law;

19 And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,

20 An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.

21 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal ?

22 Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?

~ Verses twelve and thirteen are more profound truths that we're not going to develop fully at this point in our Spiritual Safari. The heathen are

lost without the law. No one is lost because they haven't heard about Christ – they're lost because they're sinners! We all need to grasp that concept of truth. That's the condition of *ALL* mankind. Men are never saved by the light they have – they are *JUDGED* by the light they have. So many so-called Christians erroneously believe that if they just nod in approval of the Sermon on the Mount, it means they are saved. But that's not the basis of salvation – not even close.

Verse fifteen is our fifth principle which shows the work of the law written in their hearts. God *CAN* and *WILL* judge the heathen by their own conscience of good works; turn that over in your minds a few times and see what you come up with. We seem to think that, somehow or another, the heathen who has no revelation won't be judged; this Bible says they will be judged based on the law that they *DO* have! The problem is: they don't live up to the little light they *DO* have! I cannot stress this enough; and that's why Paul wrote it again and again in many different ways.

Verse sixteen is the total sum of God's declared basis for judgment. A misguided conscious that decides you're a good person and declares you'll be saved is so entirely wrong you have *NO IDEA* what's right. God is going to judge the "*do-gooders*," my beloved – make a note – read this report again if you have to. Do you want to have the secrets of your heart brought out? I don't. This doesn't mean the pious platitudes you spewed – it means the dirty little secrets you hold. All of that will be displayed under the light of Christ and I promise you, it won't be pretty. I thank God I have a Savior from that exposure. Do you?

Beginning with verse seventeen, the judgment of religious people without Christ is set forth. The Jews had the law, but they didn't keep it. See, when I write these reports, they are a two-edged sword; they may cut you, but they cut me, too! My church member friends, let me just speak frankly to you as we end this leg of our safari: are you really living up to the light of the Word of God you have - or are you just making some religious display of yourself? Every man and woman knows within his own heart he comes short of the glory of God. Your religion may reveal some very high principles – but are you living by them? Israel possessed a God-given religion, and, for over a thousand years, they tried to keep it; but they

found out they couldn't. You and I do not measure up to God's standard. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can save us, friends. We either have Christ in our heart or we don't have Him in our heart; we either trust Him or we don't trust Him. The law was a ministry of condemnation. What do you trust in? Will you turn to Christ today? ~