

Truth & Goodness

Romans 2:1-5

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**.

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

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?

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

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;

Introduction:

- Romans 1:28 to the end of the chapter, he gives a list of twenty-one sins. It covers us all.
- What would happen if we had a group of people who had more light than the natural - would the law bring people to a place where they are right before God?
- Mankind has been denying natural revelation since the beginning. From gen 3 to the flood. Then from the ark all the way to the tower of Babel.
- God calls out Abraham, from idol makers, and gives him light / special revelation.
- 2:17 written to Jewish people - but is very applicable to all moral, self righteous people today
- When Paul sums up his gospel in [Romans 1:16-17](#) and says that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe. The righteousness he demands from us, he freely gives to us, not on the basis of our works, but on the basis of our faith. **This is why Christianity is good news**
- WE ALL NEED THE GOSPEL!! Gen. 3:9 - The Jew is not better than the gentile. You moral people are no better than the immoral people of this society -- we need the GOSPEL!! (say it with me)

I. You are without excuse!

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.

A. The Gentile, Pagans were out excuse by creation. 1:20

1. Moral, Jew might have saw the need for a Pagan, Gentile Savior.
2. We see the need for the Gospel in the villages of Peru and among the vile and poor.
3. Jewish proverb: Abrahams seats at the gates of Hell and would not even allow a wicked jew to go to hell.

B. These verses should show us we are without excuse. 2:1

1. Examples of this attitude in the Bible.
 - a) David thou art the man.
 - b) Samson went to battle without strength.
 - c) When truth is read they answer I am okay - because I am more Biblical literate than the pagans we must be okay - salvation does not come from gathering information.
2. God is just in the condemnation of the good and bad pagan.
 - a) No one will be able to raise their hand in Heaven and be able to say this is not just.
 - b) We are condemned already. The pagan gentile, the moral Jew, the poor, the rich, the republican, the democrat, we are ALL CONDEMNED. WE ALL LOVED DARKNESS. John 3:18,19

3. Heart of Stephen's message.

a) Jewish people had no place in their heart for God's Word.

b) Stephen got tired of it. Acts 7

(1) End of 6 they said Stephen was guilty of conspiring to destroy the temple and Moses law.

(2) 7:1 High Priest "is this not so"

(3) Stephen - Guys you have got this and so many things all wrong - it is not about a building!

c) They got tired of hearing Stephen.

(1) Grind teeth their teeth then kill him.

(2) People who were "protecting a building" killed a man who would be part in the living church! 1 Peter 2:5

C. Judge guilty of the same thing.

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?

D. Ill. Man returns \$ - dont tell news this isnt my wife.

E. You havent killed but you have thought upon a man with hate. Matt. 5:21

F. You have not committed adultery but you have lusted. Matt. 5:27

G. You know they are guilty - but you have tried to cover your own guilt. It as the leaves of Genesis 3.

II. Truth (v.2)

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

A. Unwise comparison

1. So focused on externals they didn't even notice when Jesus walked into the room. **John 2**

2. This is not wise. **2 Cor. 10:12**

B. Jesus Christ will judge the judges. Acts 24:25

1. He is the ultimate truth. We are not.

2. Do you really think you will escape judgement? v.3

a) Because you can judge others you won't be judged.

b) You think you get a secret pass on your sin - because

(1) You have done so much good?

(2) Because God has bigger cases to deal with?

(3) You have extraneous circumstances?

C. Men are treasuring up wrath for the day of judgement. v.5

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;

1. Their opinions will not matter.

a) Their being better will not remove one ounce of evidence against them that they are unrepentant sinners.

b) Their lives will be contrasted against a HOLY GOD not heathen GENTILES.

c) We must have the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God. 1:17

2. Their hearts are hardened.

a) Why? They continue to resist God's goodness.

b) They resist it even though they may recognize it.

c) God's goodness should lead them to repentance, to conversion but they have received it and become critical.

TRANSITION

They reason based upon the privilege they are enjoying - We have a Bible - we are in a good church -- why would I have all this privilege.. God must really love me because he is giving me special attention.

We have heard it time and time again when asking people about their relationship with Christ..

- I was in car wreck and God let me live / I know He has a plan for me.
- How did you feel when you were doing good? I felt warm inside.
- I have never killed anyone..
- I feel like I have as good a chance as anyone.

God will judge this world by **TRUTH** not based upon how we feel about how we measure up against one another or even based upon what we know about Him.

III. **Goodness of God** (v.4)

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

A. Paul asked a series of questions.

1. Do you think lightly of God's mercy?

a) Riches of goodness.

(1) Not just a little kind.

(2) Look at how good He has been to you today.

(a) You hear the Gospel.

(b) You have His Word.

(c) You have another day to repent.

b) You despise His mercy.

(1) God is good to us because He is good - not because we are deserving of good.

(2) Cynic: God will forgive me because IT IS HIS JOB.

(3) I said a prayer - everything is okay. I got baptized everything is cool. He did not demand us to pray or get wet - but to repent!

c) His goodness should lead you to repent.

(1) Sinner: I have the law and do good with it.

(2) Bible: Yes you do but no you don't.

(3) Sinner: I am not a gross sinner like Romans 1.

(4) Bible: But you are still a sinner in need of forgiveness.

(5) Sinner: God's mercy will never fail. He will take care of it.

(6) Bible: Yes God is good and merciful but that should lead you to repentance.

2. Do you understand who God is?
 - a) If we do not repent, then we're really not apprehending God as he is.
 - b) Do you really believe he is..
 - (1) Good
 - (a) God is kind to all.
 - (b) Here we are talking about the special kindness to those people who have been revealed more truth than most.
 - (2) Patient
 - (a) He is withholding judgement giving you a chance today.
 - (b) Your iniquity may not yet be full but someday soon it will be. Genesis 15:16
 - (3) Longsuffering
 - (a) He allows you to go on living even though you go on sinning.
 - (b) You think your sin is not a big deal because you do not immediately see the effect of it on your life. FOOLISH!
 - (c) He is not slack concerning His promise to judge the world.

The 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. **1 Peter 3:9**

- c) You may say you believe in God but you are denying who He is!

3. Do you know why God is so patient?
 - a) Because He would lead you here today and give you another chance!
 - b) Let today be the day you decide you need to repent from a heart that says..
 - (1) It doesn't matter that God isn't at the center of my life.
 - (2) It doesn't matter that they really don't love the kingdom Lord.
 - (3) It doesn't really matter that Christ is not the one who is the ruler of their hearts.
 - c) Do not be confused His goodness has a purpose
 - (1) To lead you to repentance.
 - (2) Not to give you a false sense of security that all is good because He is good to you.