"Prepare To Meet Thy God" Romans 2:1-5

Introduction:

1. Do You Remember:

- The Days - When You Looked Forward:

- To The Most Recent:

- Catalog - From Your Favorite Store?

- Like Some Of The Old Ones - Sears Or J.C. Penneys?

- Of Course - Most Everything:

- You Could Ever Want Today:

- Is Available Online!

- So - When You Get A Catalog From Some Company Or Store Today:

- Its Often Treated Like Junk-Mail, And Ends Up In The Trash! Its No Longer A Treasure!

2. Well - We Ended Our Time:

- In The Book Of Romans Last Sunday:

- With A Different Kind Of Catalog!

- A Catalog Of Sins & Vices:

- That - Unfortunately - Will Never Go Out Of Style!

- In 1:29-31 - The Apostle Paul Describes:

- Those Whom:

- God Has Let Go - To Follow After:

- Their Own Lusts & Their Own Wills!

- And He Says That They Are:

- "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, / Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, / Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful!"

3. Well - After Going Through That Catalog:

- You Might Agree With Paul:

- And - With God:

- That - Yes - Those Who:

- "Commit Such Things Are Worthy Of Death" - And - They Deserve:

- The Judgment & The Wrath Of God!

- Especially Those:

- Who Have Resorted:

- To The Most Grotesque & Vile Kinds:

- Of Sins!

4. You Might Even Think:

- "I'm So Glad - That I'm Not *That* Bad!"

- Or - "I'd Never Do *Those* Kinds Of Sins!"

- Or - I Would *Never*:

- Reject & Replace & Resist God:

- In *Those* Ways!

- But - The Sad Truth Is:

- This Kind Of Thinking:

- Is All-Too-Natural For Us:

- In Our Fallen Condition!

- Isn't This What Adam Did:

- When God Confronted Him:

- With His Sin?

- In Effect - He Said:

- "Not Me" God!

- "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat!" (Genesis 3:12)

- And - Isn't This What Eve Did:

- When God Confronted Her:

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- With Her Sin?
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- Again - She Said:

- "Not Me" God!

- "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat!" (3:13)

5. And So - In The Verses We Come To Next:

- In Romans 2 - Paul Says:

- "It *Is* You!" - Because - It Is *To You*:

- He Writes Next!

- You - Who Feel So Sure & Secure:

- In Your Own Righteousness!

- And This Is Why He Begins:

- Chapter 2 - With These Very Pointed Words:

- "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!"

- In Chapter 1:

- Paul Talks About:

- Men In General:

- And Their Unrighteousness Before God!

- 1:18 - "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness!"

- And Because They Reject God:

- 1:20 - "They Are Without Excuse!"

- But Now - In Chapter 2:

- Paul Talks To:

- Men - And To You & Me - In Particular!

- 2:1 - "O Man!" - He Says!

- So - What *About* You?

- Apart From Jesus Christ:

- You Too Are "Without Excuse!" / "Inexcusable!" - And:

- You Too Deserve The Judgment & The Wrath Of God!

6. And - In This First Verse - Paul Tells Us Why! It Is Because:

- Of Our Own Pride!

- 2:1a - "Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest!"

- It Is So Easy For Us:

- To Set Ourselves Up As A "Judge" Of Others - And - Of Their Condition, Their

Character, And Their Conduct!

- Jesus Addressed This Same Tendency:

- In Matthew 7:1-2 - "Judge not, that ye be not judged. / For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again!"

- Now - The "Judging" That Paul & Jesus Are Talking About:

- Is Not The Examination & Discernment:

- That Is Right & Proper & Based On God's Standards!

- Because - In John 7:24 - Jesus Also Taught Us To - "Judge not according to the

appearance, but judge *righteous* judgment!"

- The "Judging" Going On In Romans 2:

- Is The Judgment Of A Hypocrite:

- Using Your Own Standard Of Righteousness - In Order To Appear Better Than You Are!

- It's A Matter Of Pride! But Its Also Because:

- Of Our Own Problem!

- In 2:1b, Paul Adds - "For wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself!"

- IE: I Remember Being Told As A Child Not To Point At Others - In A Way That Blames & Judges Someone Else - Why? - Because For Every Finger Pointed Out, I Had Three Fingers Pointed Right Back At Me!

- And This Is Still Our Problem!

- When You Make A Judgment About Someone Else, In Effect:

- You Are Making The Same Judgment About Yourself! Why? Because:

- Of Our Own Practice!

- 2:1c - "For thou that judgest doest the same things!"

- Now - You Might Look Back:

- At The Catalog Of Sins Again:

- At The End Of Chapter 1 - And Think - "No I'm Not!" Or "No I Won't!"

- But - Remember How That Catalog Begins?

- 1:29 - "Being Filled!"

- There Are Still Some Things:

- That You May Be Filled With:

- That Are The Same In Every Sinner!

- You See - A Sinner Is Still A Sinner:

- Even If Their Sin:

- Manifests Itself Differently Everyone Else's!

7. And So - *Every Single One Of Us:*

- Is "Inexcusable" & Without Defense:

- Before The Court Of God:

- Because Of Our Own:

- Pride & Problem & Practice!

- And - We Will All:

- Meet With God - Some Day:

- As Our Judge!

- You Too - Will Meet God - Some Day:

- As Your Judge!

- So - Today - You Need To:

- "Prepare To Meet Thy God!"

- As The Children Of Israel Were Told To Do Back In Amos 4:12!

- "Prepare To Meet Thy God!"

- You Need To Be Prepared:

- Because - In 2:2-5 - We Find Four:

- Principles Of God's Judgment!

8. "But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. / 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? / Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? / 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!"

- Are You Prepared?

- "To Meet Thy God?" - Because:

1. God's Judgment Is Indelible!

- IE: This Is Your Word For The Day! "Indelible" - It Simply Means Something That Is Permanent! Something That Is Impossible To Remove Or Erase! IE: Like The Time I Used Permanent Marker On Our Dry Erase Board! You Can Still See Some Of My Writing! It's Indelible! And - This Is The First Principle Of God's Judgment!

- It Is Indelible! It Is Permanent!

- And You Need To Be Prepared!

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

- We Discover In This Verse That:

- The Judgments Of God:

- Are Always Certain!

- 2:2a - "But We Are Sure" - Paul Writes!

- "We Know" That God Is:

- "The Judge Of All The Earth!" (Genesis 18:25)

- And - He Alone:

- Has The Right To Judge:

- According To The Standards:

- That He Has Set!

- And So - The Judgments Of God:

- Are Never Arbitrary!

- Because - They Are Based On His Own Nature! - And - His Sentences: - Are Never Cruel Or Unusual! - Because - He Is Just And Right! - Our Judgments Are Never Certain! - But God's Judgments Are! Also - They: - Are Always Correct! - 2:2b - "According To Truth" - Paul Adds! - That Is - God's Judgments Are Always Based On Reality! - IE: Think About The Judgment Of Jesus By The Jews & By Pilate! Was Their Judgment Correct? No! It Was Based On Their Own Detestation Of Jesus, Their Own Discrimination, Their Own Deception! And So, They Condemned Hin To Death! - But This Is Not How God Judges! - Psalm 19:9 - "The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether!" - Our Judgments May Only Be Correct - Sometimes! - But God's Judgments Are Always Correct! - Also - They: - Are Always Consistent! - 2:2c - "Against Them Which Commit Such Things!" - It Does Not Matter To God: - How Rich Or How Poor: - A Sinner Is! Or: - How Strong Or How Weak! - Or Even: - How Sophisticated Or How Simple: - A Sinner Is! - God Judges Everyone Alike! - IE: Years Ago - A Show - "Lifestyles Of The Rich And Famous" - Hosted By Robin Leach -Who Died In 2018 - Remember Seeing A Toilet Overlaid With Gold! But - A Gilded Toilet Is Still A Toilet! - Can These Things Be Said: - Of Your Judgment? - How You Judge Yourself - And: - How You Judge Others? - No! Of Course Not! - Your Judgments & My Judgments: - Are All-Too-Often: - Uncertain! - Incorrect! And: - Inconsistent! - And - This Is Why: - You And I Will Be "Inexcusable" And Completely Defenseless: - Before God - As Judge! - Because - The "Judge Of All The Earth" Will Always "Do Right!" - And You Will Meet Him Someday! - Are You Prepared To Meet Your God? * You Also Need To Prepared - Because:

2. God's Judgment Is Inescapable!

> - IE: During The Time Of Christ - Many Of The Jews Believed That They Were Exempt From God's Judgment -Because Of The Family They Belonged To! In Matthew 3:9 - Jesus Said To The Pharisees & Sadduccees - "Think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham!" - So - The Gentiles Needed To Prepare For God's Judgment Because Of Their Sin - But Not The Jews!

- But - This Is The Second Principle Of God's Judgment!

- It Is Inescapable!

- 2:3 - "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?"

- You Cannot Escape God's Judgment:

- Because Of Your Thinking!

- As Paul Asks - "And Thinkest Thou This, O Man?"

- The Word Translated "Think" Means:
 - To Reckon And To Reason Something:

- In Your Mind!

- And Paul Is In Utter Disbelief!

- How Can You Think This Way?

- How Can You Think:

- That You Will "Escape The Judgment Of God?"

- It Is Illogical!

- It Is Irrational! Why?

- Because Of Your Treatment!

- How You Treat Others!

- You Are Doing The Same Things:

- That You Are Judging:

- Others For Doing!

- This Is The Very Height:

- Of Hypocrisy!

- IE: It's Like Thinking You Have "Diplomatic Immunity" In This World - Just Because You Are Not As "Bad" As Others Seem To Be!

- And - This Too Is Why:

- You And I Will Be "Inexcusable" And Completely Defenseless:

- Before God - As Judge!

- Because - The "Judge Of All The Earth" Will *Always* "Do Right!"

- And You Will Meet Him Someday!

- Are You Prepared To Meet Your God?

* You Also Need To Prepared - Because:

3. God's Judgment Is Inevitable!

- IE: Last Week - The President Was Once Again In The News - No Surprise There - But - The Reason Was A Surprise - For Some Of The Presidential Pardons And Sentence Commutations He Gave Out - Even To A Former Democrat Governor From The State Of Illinois - Rod Blagojevich! And So - He And The Others - Expressed Gratitude To The President For This Act Of Mercy! And Properly So!

- But - Imagine If Someone Was Offered Mercy & A Second Chance Like This - And Refused It! For Whatever Reason! You Would Think That Person Was Either Senseless Or Foolish Or Both! And - Whatever Judgment They Get - They Deserve!

- And This Is The Third Principle Of God's Judgment!

- It Is Inevitable!

- Especially For Those Who Refuse What We Find In:

- 2:4 - "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

- God's Judgment Is Inevitable:

- If You Ignore & Refuse:

- The Treasure Of God's Goodness:

- Toward You!

- 2:4a - "The Riches Of His Goodness And Forbearance And Longsuffering!"

- In Other Verses - The Word Translated "Goodness" Here Is Also Translated

"Kindness!"

- God Is A Good & A Kind God!

- And - A Good & A Kind Judge!

- And His Forbearance & Longsuffering - Elements Of His Patience & Mercy:

- Are Just The Blossoms That Burst Forth From The Flower Of His Grace!

- IE: Like The Fields Of Tulips That Bloom In The Netherlands In The Springtime! The Goodness

Of God Is Abundant In All Of Its Colorful Forms!

- The Goodness Of God Is A Treasure!

- But - We Also See:

- The Target Of God's Goodness:

- For You!

- 2:4b - "The Goodness Of God Leadeth Thee To Repentance!"

- The Grace & The Goodness Of God:

- Are The "Streams Of Mercy" That Direct You To The "Well Of Salvation" In Christ Jesus!

- "Repentance" Here Is Just One Part:

- Of Your Conversion!

- "Faith" Is The Other Part!

- But - Both Are Just The Two Sides:

- Of The Same Coin!

- As Paul Preached In Acts 20:21 - "Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ!"

- So - God Leads You - By His Goodness & By His Grace:

- To Turn From Yourself:

- And Your Own Righteousness!

- And - To Turn To & Trust In:

- Jesus Christ & His Righteousness!

- All Because - God Is A Good & A Kind God!

- In Nehemiah 9:17 - The Children Of Israel Blessed The Lord By Saying - "Thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness!"

- This Is The Nature Of God!

- In Jonah 4:2 - Jonah Recognized That God Is - "A gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness!"

- This Is The Nature Of God!

- In Ezekiel 33:11 - The Lord Himself Says - "As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked!"

- And - In Isaiah 28:21 - God's Judgment Is Called "His Strange Work" And "His Strange Act!"

- This Is The Nature Of God!

- And Isn't This What Paul Tells Titus:

- In Titus 3:3-5 - "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. / But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, / Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost!"

- But - What *Will* You Do:

- With All The "Streams Of Mercy" That God Has:

- Poured Out To You?

- What *Have* You Done?

- 2:4 - Are You "Despising" Him & "Presuming" On His Goodness?

- Are You Refusing & Resisting His Grace?

- Are You Swimming Against The Current?

- If So - Why?

- Why Won't You:

- Let God's Goodness Lead You:

- To Repentance Of Your Sin:

- And Faith In The Person & Work Of Jesus Christ! The Gospel!

- But - If You Continue To "Despise" Him!

- If You Continue To Refuse His Goodness!

- Then - God's Judgment Is Just:

- And - Is Inevitable!

- And - You Will Be "Inexcusable" And Completely Defenseless:

- Before God - As Your Judge!

- Because - You Will Meet Him Someday!

- Are You Prepared To Meet Your God?

* But - Fourth - You Also Need To Be Prepared - Because:

4. God's Judgment Is Intense!

- IE: Every Year - There Are Families Who Work Very Hard To Harvest And Chop Up Wood To Keep Them Warm When Winter Comes! The Wood Is Piled Up Into Neat & High Stacks - So That It Is Readily Available For A Nice Warm Fire In The Wood-Stove Or Fireplace! But - Imagine The Great Bon-Fire You Could Have - If You Saved All That Wood - To Use It All At Once! This Too Is A Principle Of God's Judgment!

- If A Person Continues To Refuse The Grace & Goodness Of God - According To:

- 2:5 - "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!"

- And - God's Judgment Will Be Intense!

- It Will Be:

- An Intensely Fitting Judgment!

- God Will Render His Judgment:

- "After" - Or - According To:

- "Thy Hardness And Impenitent / Unrepentant Heart!"

- If A Person / Any Person:

- Persists Their Sin:

- In A Stubborn Way - And:

- In A Sorrow-Less Way - Then:

- They - And You - Will Receive God's Fitting Judgment!

- That Is - It Will Be A Proper & Proportionate Response!

- From A Holy & Just God:

- Upon An Unholy & Unrighteous Sinner!

- Are You Prepared For This?

- It Will Also Be:

- An Intensely Furious Judgment!

- The Sentence Of God's Judgment:

- Is His Wrath!

- And - What Are Self-Righteous Sinners Doing With God's Wrath?

- 2:5b - They Are - "Treasuring Up Unto [Themselves] Wrath!"

- While They Live:

- God Continues To Restrain His Wrath:

- For A Time!

- But - All The While - They Keep Stock-Piling:

- The Fuel:

- For God's Fire!

- And - When God's Judgment Comes:

- IE: It Will Be Like And Out-Of-Control Forest Fire - Or - Like Water Breaking

Through A Dam!

- Are You Prepared For This?

- It Will Also Be:

- An Intensely Final Judgment!

- There Is Coming - According To This Verse:

- And Many Others - "The Day Of Wrath!"

- Job Knew Of This Day:

- When He Wrote - "That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction! They shall be brought forth to the day of wrath!" (Job 21:30)

- King Solomon Knew Of This Day:

- And That - "Riches profit not in the day of wrath!" (Proverbs 11:4)

- The Prophet Isaiah Described This Day:

- As - "The day of the LORD – cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it! And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible!" (Isaiah 13:9, 11)

- And - This Day Is Still To Come!

- As We Find In Revelation 6:17 - "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

- This Is The Day:

- When The Great Fire & Fury:

- Of God's Judgment And Wrath:

- Will Come And Consume With "Everlasting Burnings" All Who Have Refused: - His Goodness & His Grace In The Gospel! - Are You Prepared For This? - But - There Is More To This Story! - Because - It Can Also Be: - An Intensely Favorable Judgment! - Because - Not Only Is The Day Of God's Judgment: - A "Day Of Wrath" - But It Is Also: - A Day Of - "Revelation Of The Righteous Judgment Of God!" (2:5c) - Doesn't This Part Of God's Judgment: - Remind Us Of 1:17? - "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith!" - Not Everyone Will Experience: - God's Wrath! - Not Everyone: - Has To! - Listen To This Promise Of Hope: - Given By Jesus In: John 5:24 - "Verily, verily, I say unto you, 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!" - When You Turn To & Trust In Jesus: - You Can Be Confident: - That God's Judgment Is Always Just! - And - He Is Always True To His Promise! **Conclusion:** So - Now - You Can Flee: - From The Wrath To Come! - How? - By Responding To The Goodness Of God: - That Leads You To Repentance: - And Faith: - In The Gospel-Hope Of Jesus Christ! After All - It Was Jesus: - Who Came To Bear: - The Wrath Of God: - That You Deserved: - Upon Himself! - And So Now: - Christ's Righteousness: - Becomes The Answer To: - Your Sin Of: - Self-Righteousness! And This Was All Necessary: - Because - One Day: - You Will Meet God: - As Your Judge! - Are You Prepared? - The Only Way: - To Be Prepared: - Is In Jesus Christ! And When You: - Are Found In Him: - You Will Have A Defense! - And - You Will Escape: - The Day Of God's:

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- Final Judgment & Wrath: - For Sin!

- * Remember You Will Meet God As Your Judge Someday!
- * Are You Prepared To Meet Him?
- * Have You Turned To & Are You Trusting In Christ?
- * How Are You Responding To The Goodness & Kindness Of God?

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