

4/30/19

Lesson 13

Rom 2-2

“Judge Not” continued

In Romans 2, Paul is condemning the Jews for condemning the Gentiles, while the Jews themselves were living contrary to the law of God. It seems that the Jews here considered themselves better than the Gentiles whom they were condemning.

They evidently believed that because of who they were they would avoid God's judgment as he would level against the Gentiles.

How many hope that God will not judge them according truth, but according to their race, their circumcision, their baptism, their church membership, their good works apart from Christ? The list is endless.

Paul reminds us that God in his goodness and mercy gives plenty of time to repent, yet because of his patience hoping for repentance, even his people think he has forgotten, or that he has overlooked sin.

Rather than the sins being ignored by God, his wrath and judgement are being stored up.

Solomon gives us an insight into the situation.

Ecc. 8:11 *because 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. Though a sinner do evil an hundred times (and gets away with it), and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him.*

Illustration.

We took a train trip a few years ago, across country and up the west coast. One of the families we stopped to see, took us to Mt St. Helens.

Remember how it spurred a little and bulged up, waiting to blow? There was an old man who lived at the base of the mountain. The rangers went to him and urged him to move, but he refused saying, "I've lived here for many years and I'm not leaving now. The mountain and I are friends and it wouldn't do anything to hurt me.

He stayed. The mountain "stored up" pressure giving him a chance to move. The old man mistook the putting off of the explosion as a sign that he was right and the mountain would not hurt him.

The mountain could not keep the pressure any longer and the "day of wrath" came and revealed the righteous judgment against the man who got caught in the sin of presumption.

He presumed the mountain wouldn't hurt him because it was holding back, and the mountain buried him under 15 ft of mud.

Many professed Christians are the same way: "I'm in Christ now, I'm saved, and God won't hurt me even if I go ahead and do these things that I know are against him and his word." It seems that many Christians feel that Christianity is sort of a safety zone. That is, a zone between two lanes of traffic in which one should be safe.

V. 4. God in his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering holds back the explosion—his righteous judgment, as long as he can. The hope is that the person will flee, repent and run for his life to Christ.

The wrath against all unrighteousness will come, though it may be long delayed.

Vv. 4, 5, man misunderstands and misapplies God's goodness, patience and mercy. He sees those things as God's "understanding" of our failures. But those things store up against the day of his judgment.

I had a 'pusher' on the job when I worked out of the Fitters on the Franklin Indiana Hospital. He was about to retire and would tell about putting his money in a savings account. He said, 'the girl at the window will smile just as much for 50 cents as she will for \$50.00, so put in even if it's \$.50.

V. 5, **Where is the problem?** It is the heart, not the actions. The actions were pleasant on the outside, but the heart was hard and unrepentant. Throughout history, God's charge against his people has been over the heart.

Ezekiel 8:7 ¶ *And he brought me to the door of the court; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall. 8 Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door. 9 And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. 10 So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, pourtrayed upon the wall round about. 11 And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up. 12 Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The LORD seeth us not; the LORD hath forsaken the earth.*

Treasure. A treasure is something hidden away. Though the thoughts and intents of the heart are hidden away from public view, the Lord says that they are being applied to the sinner's

account. That account will be opened in that day of the Lord.

See Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

Revelation 6:17 *For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?*

V. 5, God's indignation and wrath was being stored up against the hardened and unrepentant Jews of his day. That wrath was released in the Jewish Roman war of 70 A.D. Christians were warned about that war in Matthew 24.

We can be assured that God's indignation and wrath is being stored up against all hardness and unrepentant hearts of our day, including against nations.

That wrath may be storing up just \$0.50 at a time, but there is coming a time when it will be released.

There is indignation against sin being stored up.

The wrath of God against sinners is many times concealed in the prosperity and success of sinners, but when that great day comes, it will be revealed for all to see. Everything will be set right, and the heavens will declare his righteousness.

1 Thess 1:9 *For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; 10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

Just a little bit, 50 cents, adds up when it is not covered by the blood of Christ.

1 Corinthians 4:5 *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*

Though it seems sinners have escaped punishment, and they are confident they will escape punishment altogether, we see here that they will answer for their deeds done in the flesh.

V. 6, Paul reduces both Jew and Gentile to the same level. Every person, saint or sinner, will be stand before the Judge of all judges and will be rewarded according to his deeds.

“The Jews thought themselves a holy people, entitled to their privileges by right, while they were unthankful, rebellious, and unrighteous. But all who act like this, of every nation, age, and

description, must be reminded that the judgment of God will be according to their real character.” (MH)

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

Ephesians 6:8 *Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.*

Though we do not know specific meaning in these two passages, we do know that the center will face everlasting destruction and the saint will be judged in Christ.

Vv. 7, 10, God delights in mercy.

V. 7, Well doing...

V. 10, worketh good...

It is not enough to **know well**, speak well, profess well, promise well, or have good intentions. We must **do well**. Christianity results in Christian **doing well** in his thoughts and action.

Patient Continuance in well doing... How many start off with grand and great ideas and deeds, yet they soon fizzle out. Perseverance in good works will win the praise of well-done thou good and faithful servant.

Patient continuance. That means not only sticking with the well doing, but it implies a difficult road, with many oppositions and hardships.

2 Thessalonians 3:13 *But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.*

Galatians 6:1 *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. 3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. 4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. 5 For every man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. 7 **Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. 10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.***

V. 7, Glory, honor and immortality, eternal life. The joys of heaven. Obviously well doing does not earn heaven, and Paul will make that very clear. But it does result in rewards in that day.

Vv. 8, 9. Contentious and do not obey the truth... Willful sin contends, strives with or kicks against our Maker. He rebels against the light that shines in every man, Romans 1.

Isaiah 45:9 Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?

Obeys unrighteousness... Rather than obeying truth, they are servants of sin and corruption.

It seems that the whole world is a slave to sin and corruption, which is why church attendance and fellowship with godly people is so important.

God's wages of sin are indignation, wrath, tribulation and anguish in this life may seem to be avoided by those who are slaves to sin, but will certainly come in the life to come. Everlasting tribulation and anguish in the lake of fire.

Vv. 9, 10, to the Jew first. The Jews expected greater privilege before God, but Paul tells them they are sadly mistaken. They will be judged on the same grounds as will be the Gentiles. They are all on equal footing before God.

V. 11. God's respect is concerning the spiritual condition of a person. His respect has nothing to do with Jew or Gentile, which is the problem being dealt with by Paul here. Men respect wealth and the power wealth brings, or political power. But God counts those things as nothing.

God is no respecter of persons. Sin is sin, whether openly or hidden in the heart. There is wrath against sin in this life and in the life to come. Christ can free us from the root of sin and the eternal results of sin, but he does not free us from the results of sin that come to pass in this life.

To here, 4/30/19