

**Judgment and
the Goodness of God
(Romans 2:1-16)**

¹ Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

***“you”* - those who have a morally superior attitude (the virtuous ones)**

Romans 1

29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.

32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.

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"I am not like this."

¹ Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

² We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.

³ Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?

“But the moral law, as a great teacher of mine once put it, is like a sheet of glass. If it is broken, it is broken.”

(N. T. Wright)

“It is that the first group do things they know to be wrong and approve of others who do them (1:32), which is at least consistent;

whereas the second group do what they know to be wrong and condemn others who do them, which is hypocritical.”

(John Stott)

4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

Possible effects of sin:

- **Self-justification**
- **Hardening of heart**

5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

- **Judgment of God is certain.**
- **It is righteous.**

6 He will render to each one according to his works:

7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;

8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

9 There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek,

10 but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

11 For God shows no partiality.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

- Paul is writing about judgment, not salvation.
- All of us will be judged on the basis of what we have done.
- God shows no partiality (v.11).

A God will judge everyone according to his works (v.6)

B People who seek God and do good will attain eternal life (v.7)

C People who are self-seeking and do evil will suffer wrath (v.8)

C' Wrath for those who do evil (v.9)

B' Glory for those who do good (v.10)

A' God judges impartially (v.11)

Summary:

Those who are God-seeking and persevere in doing good will receive eternal life, while those who are self-seeking and do evil will receive God's wrath.

12 All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.

Everyone will be judged by the light that is available to them.

13 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.

What matters is doing the law, not possessing it.

14 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law.

15 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.)

**Although justification is indeed by faith,
judgment will be according to works.**

- **I am NOT substituting good works for faith as a means of salvation.**
- **I am NOT adding good works to faith as a means of salvation.**

Ephesians 2:8-9

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

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8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

No one will automatically choose the path of righteousness.

Romans 3

¹⁰ As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one;

¹¹ there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.

¹² All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

Goodness of God: Gospel

All of us can only be saved by responding in faith to the gospel, “for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”” (Romans 1:16-17)

“I am not O.K. You are not O.K. No one is O.K. And the sooner we admit that we are not okay and turn to the One who knows that we are not, but who offers us a way of salvation anyway, the better off we will be... The most important thing in life is to know that Jesus is able to save you from sin. The second most important thing is to know that you require it.”

(James M. Boice)

Faith and Obedience:

If you have faith in what Jesus has done for you and His resurrection power (1 Cor 15:1-4; Rom 8:11; Phil 3:10), God will enable you to walk on the path of righteousness – to seek God and do good.