

Title: God's Perfect Judgment

Passage: Romans 2:5-16

Summary:

God's Judgment - Characteristics:

- I. God's judgment is according to truth (v.2)
- II. God's judgment allows for no exceptions (v.3)
- III. God's judgment means you should not presume on His kindness but turn to Him in repentance (v.4)
- IV. God's judgment will result in God's just wrath on the unrepentant (v.5)
- V. God's judgement is based on where we have really been, sought, and done. (v.6-10)
- VI. God's judgement is without partiality (v.11)
- VII. God's judgement is for everyone regardless of how they receive the law. (v.12-15)

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
 - Do you have a hard and impenitent heart?
 - Do you make a habit of repenting for your sins?
 - Do you receive and welcome criticism?
 - When has God's patience, tolerance, and kindness brought you to repentance?
 - Who in your life is not ready for their day of judgment before God and needs your prayers this week?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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Introduction

When facing judgment, our tendency is to rationalize or find excuses (ex: little children shift blame). But still remain guilty.

Passage:

Romans 2:5-16

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.

He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.

For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

EXPOSITION

Luke 15 (Parable of Lost Sons)

- Younger brother
 - Clearly disobedient and leaves home to satisfy his own desires.
 - Does not understand the father's love.
 - Romans 1 describes the younger brother
- Older brother
 - Seems to be obedient and does the right things (stays home and obeys)
 - But also does not understand the father's love as only
 - Romans 2: describes the older brother (religious one who thinks he is moral but all the while still lost)
- Both still need to know the father's love for them.

Romans 2:1-4

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

- Those who judge should also understand that they will be judged as well.

For those who think they are moral:

- Have you ever used God's name in vain (an improper way)?
 - If so, then a blasphemer
- Have you ever you looked at someone other than your spouse with lust?
 - If so, then adulterer
- Have you ever lied?
 - If so, then a liar
- Have you ever stole something that doesn't belong to you?
 - If so, then a thief
- in the end, we are blasphemers, adulterers, liars, and thieves.

- God is holy and just. The penalty for one sin is death and eternal punishment.
 - The only way to be in His presence is to be perfect. We will face His perfect judgment unless we are covered by Christ's righteousness.

GOD'S JUDGMENT - CHARACTERISTICS:

I. God's judgment is according to truth (v.2)

- rightly done and without bias but always just
- It is only based upon His truth.

II. God's judgment allows for no exceptions (v.3)

- there are no special people based upon their ethnic background.

III. God's judgment means you should not presume on His kindness but turn to Him in repentance (v.4)

- being an externally good behaviorist does not mean God will not bring you to judgement.

IV. God's judgment will result in God's just wrath on the unrepentant (v.5)

V. God's judgement is based on where we have really been, sought, and done. (v.6-10)

VI. God's judgement is without partiality (v.11)

VII. God's judgement is for everyone regardless of how they receive the law. (v.12-15)

IV. GOD'S JUDGEMENT WILL RESULT IN GOD'S JUST WRATH ON THE UNREPENTANT (v.5)

Romans 2:5

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.

But because of your hard and impenitent heart

Do you have a hard and impenitent heart?

Evaluation questions:

- Do you make a habit of repenting for your sins?
- Do you receive and welcome criticism?
 - How know welcome criticism:
 - How many people are still in your life who can speak to you about a wrong?
 - Are they welcome to come back and share more criticism?

1 John 1:8-10

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

How many profess Christianity but have never had a moment of repentance?

- How is your heart today?
 - Soft and sensitive to the Spirit of God
 - Do you say "I'm sorry because this is because of my sin."?
 - Hard and impenitent heart
 - Never acknowledge they are wrong.
 - Never say "I'm sorry."

Repentance is a lifestyle

- "Once saved, always repenting"
 - Repenting is a sign you always want to come back to God.

- You long for peace with God and peace with others.
- Contrast: "once saved, always saved"
 - While there is eternal security in Christ, we must live a life of repenting to God to always come to Him.

V. God's judgement is based on where we have really been, sought, and done. (V.6-10)

Romans 2:6-10

He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

Two pathways / two types of people

1. A person who does good and seeks honor and glory and immortality
 - God will reward this person accordingly.
2. A person who is self-seeking and doesn't obey the truth
 - God will give them wrath and tribulation and judgment.

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

Question: Is Paul teaching here in this passage that we can earn salvation through our works?

- Answer: No!

Romans 1:17

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Romans 3:9-12

What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 3:28

For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

Romans 4:5

And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,

Romans 5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:33-34

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

- meaning: works matter not as the basis of salvation but as the evidence that someone is saved.
 - God gives eternal life to those obey because saving faith always changes our lives so that true believers always persevere in doing good.
 - Good works show that we have saving faith but they do not add to our salvation.
- Eternal life is always based on Jesus Christ alone.

Analogy: Apples on an apple tree show signs of life. But they do not provide life. It is the tree that provides life that produces apples.

- Faith in Christ alone produces new life. Changed life shows evidence of true life.

How know have true life?

1. Persist in doing good.

- Continue to show and do good.

2. Seek glory, honor, and immortality

- do good works for God's glory and His honor.
- They want to be honored by God, not people.
 - What's your motivation in doing good?

Romans 2:8

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

- indicators of one who is not right with God.
 - Self-seeking: self-will
 - Reject truth and follow evil.

VI. God's judgement is without partiality (v.11)

Romans 2:11

For God shows no partiality.

- all are under God's judgment apart from Christ.

VII. God's judgement is for everyone regardless of how they receive the law. (v.12-15)

Romans 2:12-15

For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them

- all are condemned apart from Christ.
- To Jews
 - They know the Law of God yet they do not follow it.
- To Gentiles
 - All have a conscience (written on hearts) that perceive right and wrong.
 - Ex: basic concepts. When a child does something wrong, filled with shame.
- Book: "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis.

Contrast: Post-modernism

- People don't care about moral standards
 - Yet they judge based on their own moral standards.
 - "Don't judge" yet they judge by their own perceptions.
 - "Tolerate" yet become intolerant of anything contrary to their beliefs.

- It is ironic that people allege there are no standards of truth or morality.
 - In their hearts, they know there is.
 - God will still judge all.
- Our internal conscience is enough to be judged by but not for salvation so we need Christ.

VIII. God's judgement reaches the secrets of our hearts. (v.16)

Romans 2:16

on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Psalms 139:1-4

O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

Hebrews 4:13

And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

- God sees and knows all things.

Application

If not a believer: repent!

Hebrews 9:27

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

- We will all appear before God's throne for judgment.
 - Come to God.
 - He will forgive you and wash you clean through Christ.
 - Admit you are on the wrong path.
 - Ask God to save you.

Why is there so much depression and anxiety?

- Generally speaking: Sin in our heart. Lack of forgiveness and repentance.
 - Turn to Christ.

If you are believer:

- you are fully justified in Christ's eyes. You will never face judgment.

John 3:18

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

- Never live in fear of judgement.

- In Christ, there is judgment but more of an assessment for rewards.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

- In Christ, you are called to build in a right way. Invest in kingdom of God.
 - Don't waste your time.
 - Build for Christ's honor and glory.