

ROMANS SEASON 1 THE GOSPEL. OUR NEED.

CONNECT *BREAK THE ICE AND GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- What subject did you enjoy most in school? What about it did you find interesting?
 - Aside from the Bible, what book has had a significant impact in your life and why?
 - What comes to mind when you hear the word “judgment”?
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TRUTH *UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING*

Similar things can happen when we hear the terms “wrath of God” and “judgment.” Images come to our mind about what they mean. Paul cleared up our understanding of God’s wrath last week, and now he’s going to do the same for God’s judgment. It’s another sobering topic, but again its severity shows us why the gospel is such good news.

God’s Equal Judgment

READ: Romans 2:1-11

DISCUSS: What is the criteria for God’s judgment? Do you think it’s fair? Why or why not?

There can’t be justice when there’s partiality. When we see someone get a pass for a crime because of their status, wealth, or connections, we know it’s not right. God’s day of judgment will be completely impartial because he is perfectly just. This is really good news. Every injustice will be exposed and given its due treatment. God will make all things right.

Who Deserves to be Judged?

READ: Romans 2:12-16

DISCUSS: What can you learn about judgment from these verses?

The good news is that God’s judgment is perfectly fair. The bad news is that we all deserve to be judged. Israel had God’s law written on stones from God at Mt. Sinai, but all humanity has God’s law “written on their hearts.” The common ground is that all have sinned. By participating in ungodly choices and actions, every human has laid up their fair share of wrath.

Excusing Yourself and Judging Others

READ: Romans 2:1-5, 17-24

DISCUSS: Why do you think it’s unfair on the part of the Jew Paul talks about to excuse himself on the basis of being Jewish?

Paul uses a hypothetical Jewish man to make his point. He says that just being Jewish—knowing the law, being circumcised—doesn't excuse him from God's judgment, because he's still broken God's law and sinned. Remember, God's impartial. We may not try and excuse ourselves from judgment on the basis of being Jewish, but things we point to – being woke, being a self-reliant American, being religious, being non-religious. How do you know if you're trying to excuse yourself like this? If you find yourself judging people who don't have those same cultural markers.

GRACE *SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS*

Repentance From the Heart

READ: Romans 2:28-29

If all these cultural markers can't save you from God's judgment, then what can? Repentance. In verse four, Paul says that God's kindness should lead us to repentance. But repentance requires a humbling of the heart before God. And that can only happen through Christ. In his letter to the Colossians, Paul says, "In [Christ] also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ..." (Col 2:11). Only in letting Christ change our hearts do we find the repentance that leads to salvation.

CHANGE *APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS*

- What association can make you feel judgmental towards others? How does the truth about God's judgment impact that attitude?
 - Is there any consistent judgment towards certain groups or people that you need to repent of today?
 - In what ways have you experienced the softening of your heart towards God and others?
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PRAYER *RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER*

- Ask God to point out any pride and judgment that might be in your attitude towards others.
- Ask God for a humble and repentant heart.
- Thank God for his salvation from judgment by putting our judgment on Christ.

Discipleship Check-In

- Have you read your Bible consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're praying to share Jesus with this week, and what's one way you can love them well?