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# The Epistle of Romans

The Justification of the Ungodly

Chapter 2 Verses 1-11

What do we do with persons who think they are squeaky clean? Are they free from the wrath of God? Can they sit on the sidelines, and simply condemn everyone else beneath them? The answer from the Apostle Paul in this section of verses is, "No!" Every human being is underneath God's future coming wrath. Both Jew and Greek alike!

Here is how it works. Judgment is based on actions. However, even those who think they are squeaky clean on the outside are condemned as doers of what they condemn. Have you ever noticed that what we condemn in others is that which we struggle with in ourselves the most? It is like this because we notice the sins in others that we most struggle with ourselves. And so, we end up being the most condemning to others on things that we struggle with. To the point; those who typically judge the most are those who are the most guilty. Why? Those who are unjust will try to put others under themselves to get the spotlight off

of themselves. If you struggle with a sin, it is always easier to find someone who struggles with the same sin more. And then, it is easy to condemn and judge them to make oneself feel good. We, humans, do this to justify ourselves.

On the other hand, individuals who understand their true depravity will often not put others underneath themselves but put others alongside themselves. They know that they are just as guilty as everyone else around them – if not more. So, it could be said that the more we understand our true depravity, the more compassion we have for others (compassion, not tolerance). However, the less that we understand our true depravity, the more judgmental and condescending we will be of others around us. (Note: the Bible does not condemn judging but it does condemn hypocritical judging. See Matthew 7.)

There is something more to consider in this section. Those who are squeaky clean, are not squeaky clean on the inside. As we will see in Chapter 3 – as well as in Mark 7:21-23 – it is the heart of sinful mankind that is sinful. In other words, if a person does not do a bunch of bad, sinful things – externally speaking – while judging others who do, are they any better off? The Apostle Paul is showing that they are not, for that which they condemn and abstain from externally is that which they lust for and commit inwardly with their thoughts. If a person is innocent in deed, more often than not they are guilty in thought. Remember that unless a good work is done from the true fear, love, and trust of God, it is not a good work but sin. In fact, it has been said before that doing the right thing with the wrong motive is the gravest of sin. It breeds hypocrisy and relocates a person not in reality but a false reality. Lord have mercy! We are sinners who are guilty in our words, deeds, AND thoughts.

A final point to consider in this section is that there is no such thing as Christians who are separated from the host of 'other sinners.' We Christians are a part of the human race. And so, we Christians are called to repent – along with everyone else. There is no room for Christians to think that we are special – not like those gays or abortionists. The wrath of God is over all humanity because of all humanity sins. The Christian not only repents but also testifies to God's wrath and judgment upon all of our sin! We are always saint and sinners at the same time. We are never not sinners in this life under the sun.



