

Gospel Centered Living: A Study of the Book of Romans
The Danger in Judging Others
Romans 2:1-16
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As we trust Jesus Christ for our salvation, we recognize there is tremendous power in centering our lives in His gospel which is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Romans will teach us our need for this transforming power and how to access it by grace for the challenges we face. This study will show us how to be right with God, ourselves, and others. The great reformer, Martin Luther shares: "Romans is a feast for one's soul." Jack Kuhatschek adds, "If a person understands it, he has a sure road opened for him to the understanding of the whole Scripture." We are going to have some sweet Bible times at church and at our small groups this season. But watch out! Those who study Romans are rarely the same afterward. As you study Paul's letter, may you be challenged by the new life and the new lifestyle we have in Christ! Enjoying the Journey, Pastor John

The Passage:

Romans 2:1 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. 2 Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.

3 So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?

4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? 5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. 6 God "will give to each person according to

what he has done." 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. 9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; 10 but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

A statement to consider this week:

It's not about me. It's not about now. (Max Lucado)

God does not exist to make much of us! We exist to make much of Him! John Piper

Some key thoughts to help us avoid the judging others:

I. Realize that we are _____ . (vs.1) It's not about me.

Romans 2:1 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

Romans 2:1-2 "Those people are on a dark spiral downward. But if you think that leaves you on the high ground where you can point your finger at others, think again. Every time you **criticize** someone, you **condemn** yourself. It takes one to know one. Judgmental criticism of others is a well known way of escaping detection in your own crimes and misdemeanors. But God isn't so easily diverted. He sees right through all such smoke screens and holds you to what you've done." The Message

A. Beware of the _____ mentality. (Rom. 3:10)

B. Beware of _____ others to make ourselves feel better. (Luke 18:10 –11)

C. Beware of the _____ attraction.
(who look like you, who perform like you, think like you)

D. Judgment brings _____. (vs.5)

Romans 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are **storing** up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

Reflective Questions: What are some guidelines we can follow when we think something is wrong with another Christian's life? Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15-20; Galatians 6:1-5, Hebrews 3:12-13, II Tim. 2:25) What insights can we gather from these passages and the Romans passage? Study Luke 18:9-14 for what not to do. Prayer for our lives: (Psalm 139:23-24, 19:13).

*Beware of **Deflection** instead of **Detection**.*

II. God is _____. Romans 2:2-16) (It's not about now.)

Romans 2:11 For God does not show favoritism.

A. He judges all by _____.

Romans 2:2 Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on **truth**. (Romans 3:4)

B. He is _____.

Romans 2:6 God "will give to each person according to what he has done." (Genesis 18:25)

C. He waits till all the _____ is in.

Romans 2:16 This will take place on the day when God will judge men's **secrets** through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares. (1 Peter 4:5, 1 Corinthians 4:5, Ecclesiastes 8:11, 2 Peter 3:9)

D. He is looking for a _____, not just a profession.

Romans 2:7 To those who by **persistence** in doing good **seek glory**, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. (See Job 24:13; Romans 1:18; 2Thessalonians 1:8, Matthew 21:28-32)

E. Jesus Christ is the only one _____ to judge.

Romans 2:16 This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through **Jesus Christ**, as my gospel declares. (Hebrews 9:27, Acts 10:42, Revelation 20:12)

Colossians 3:25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no **favoritism**. (1 Peter 1:17)

Romans 2:4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? (Acts 20:20,31)

Romans 3:25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished-- 26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Our response is to let the goodness of God lead us to repentance.

It's not about me. It's not about now.