

## Text— Romans 2:1-16

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Prior to our Scripture selection we learn that God certainly has cause to be angry with rebellious sinful mankind, for we read in Romans 1:21-32, “when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”

Thus, the guilt of mankind and the general downward trend of morality in society as blatant sin increases is accurately described prior to our

Scripture selection. And sadly, in regular news broadcasts one can easily observe the sins of idolatry, lesbianism, homosexuality, envy, covetousness, pride, and lack of natural affection are quite widespread and generally condoned— as the recent national election results also amply reflect.

Nevertheless, we must all guard against a pompous personal attitude since Isaiah 64:6 reports, “we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.” Hence, our Scripture selection can be of help to us in keeping our thinking humbly aright as it urges:

“BEWARE OF UNJUST JUDGMENT; BE AWARE OF GOD’S JUST JUDGMENT”

With that as our theme may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) Why we must all beware of unjust judgment
- 2) Why we must all be aware of God’s just judgment

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Verses 1 & 2, ----- (Romans 2:1-2)

Subsequent to describing the downward trend of morality in society as blatant sinning continues to increase, despite people knowing God’s judgment concerning such heinous sins while going so far as to do the same sins and taking pleasure in others who do likewise, our text opens with the Apostle Paul declaring by inspiration of God: *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.*

Note well that hypocrisy on top of the aforementioned heinous sins is deplorable, for when one commits the same sins while

condemning such sins in others, one adds the sin of unjust personal judging to one's own list of sins!

Furthermore, the main point of the opening verse of our text is that it is NOT our place to judge our fellow human beings in a condemnatory manner since Ecclesiastes 7:20 plainly states: "there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." And, in verse two we note that the Apostle Paul and all other true Christians *are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things*. Oh, we all dwell in sinful flesh prone to be pride-filled and looking down on others while attempting to excuse our own sins. Therefore, we must beware of unjust judgment which is itself another sin we are inclined to commit.

Fellow Christians, we must always remember that only the Lord God has perfect knowledge of all facts about all people and all situations; consequently, only God's judgment is truly righteous. It's as we read in Psalm 9:7-8, "the LORD shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment. And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness." Accordingly, Romans 14:4 says to each and every one of us, "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand." So, we are NOT to practice personal unjust condemnatory judgment, *But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things*.

Now, take it to heart that God does NOT forbid ALL judging by us, for we are permitted, yea required, to judge right and wrong using Holy Scripture as our guide, for Jesus instructs in John 7:24, "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." And, we Christians could not be *sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit* sinful things if we did not judge things by means of God's Word. However, we must never forget that we are NOT to practice personal unjust condemnatory judgment.

Let us therefore beware of unjust judgment since our sinful flesh is inclined thereto.

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As we continue to ponder our Scripture selection, let us see why we must all be aware of God's just judgment.

Verses 3-6, ----- (Romans 2:3-6)

We are warned to beware of unjust judgment and to rather be aware of God's just judgment, for our text asks, *thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

It's truly unwise for anyone to think he or she can escape God's judgment by practicing hypocrisy and personal condemnatory unjust judgment of others. It's foolish not to realize that God patiently puts up with all peoples' sinning because He is giving us time to repent of our sins and to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, God is richly good and extremely patient with us as He gives us time to take His Law seriously, then to sincerely repent of our sins, and then to take the Gospel of Christ to heart and believe on Jesus as our personal Savior from sin.

We Christians often wonder why the Lord has not yet visibly returned to earth to judge the world, and yet the answer is given to us in 2 Peter 3:9, where we read, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." What a gracious God we have!

Nevertheless, although God is gracious and extremely patient, no one should be so foolish as to think the Lord will delay His just judgment forever, for our text says to every person who fails to sincerely repent: *after thy hardness and*

*impenitent heart treasureth up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds.* Take it to heart that the just and holy Lord God is to be feared, for on Judgment Day He will sentence every impenitent sinner to severe punishment in hell.

Verses 7-11, ----- (Romans 2:7-11)

Note that God will either consign a person to eternal life or eternal punishment, based upon the works one has done during one's life in this world, for *God will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth – that is, do not obey “the truth of the gospel” (Galatians 2:14) – but rather obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God.*

Yes, it is as we read in 2 Corinthians 5:10, “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” And, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 says, “to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”

Realize then that one's deeds, one's works, give evidence of a living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ or evidence of a lack of such faith, and it is impossible for one to be declared righteous in God's sight without faith in Jesus Christ, for Holy Scripture

plainly states: “Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” (Romans 3:19-26; Ephesians 2:8-10; James 2:26)

Take it to heart that it matters not whether a person is Jew or Gentile, male or female, young or old, *For there is no respect of persons with God.* Everyone should be aware of God's just judgment because ALL will be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ when He visibly returns to earth in power and great glory at the end of days. And, Mark 16:16 clearly states: “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

Verse 12, ----- (Romans 2:12)

Without the forgiveness of sins and salvation provided by Jesus Christ being appropriated to the individual by God-given faith, one will be lost and damned whether he or she be Jew or Gentile, for our text says: *as many as have sinned without law*

*shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law.* Think about it. Whether one has had and known God's written Law or not, the wages of sin remains death— never ending death in hell, "Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."  
(Mark 9:44; Romans 6:23)

Verses 13-15, ----- (Romans 2:13-15)

If a person expects to be saved by God's Law, then he or she must keep the Law perfectly in thoughts, words, and deeds, for our text plainly states: *not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.* It was common among the Jews to take pride in the fact that God gave His holy Law first to them, and they heard it weekly in the synagogues. Nevertheless, merely hearing the Law cannot justify a person, for if one would be saved by the works of the Law one must keep God's Law perfectly.

On the other hand, the Gentiles of old who did not have access to the written holy Law of God could not honestly complain ignorance of right and wrong, *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.* Indeed, even though since the fall of our first parents the natural knowledge of God is darkened, we still have a conscience which informs us as to basic rights and wrongs. For example, everyone knows that murder is wrong whether they've had access to the Holy Bible and the Ten Commandments recorded therein or not. Thus, on Judgment Day no persons will be able to rightly claim total ignorance of God's Law and argue that they are not responsible for their sin.

Verse 16, ----- (Romans 2:16)

There is a great day of judgment coming *when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to the gospel* the Apostle Paul preached. Yes, whether people had the advantage of being familiar with the Holy Bible or not, ALL will be judged, for we read in Romans 14:10-12, "we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." And, looking again at our text in verses 12 and 16 we note that the Apostle Paul declares: *as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

Note well that the Gospel Paul preached – the Gospel of Christ – is the touchstone according to which ALL people will be judged. Yes, one's attitude toward the Gospel of Christ will be the deciding factor as to whether one is saved or damned, for "the gospel of Christ... is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."  
(Romans 1:16-17; John 3:16, 36)

My friends, there is a natural knowledge of God's Law in the heart of man, even though dimmed since the fall; but, there is NO natural knowledge of the Gospel in man's heart. Man needs the revealed knowledge of the Gospel given in the Holy Bible, for we read in 2 Timothy 3:15, "the holy scriptures... are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." Realize that people will not be able to rightly claim on Judgment Day that they never had a chance to know the Gospel of Christ, for already in the

Apostle Paul's day he wrote in Colossians 1:23 that the Christians at Colosse should "continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister." Hence, the Gospel of Christ has been and still is preached far and wide, and can be read in the Holy Bible which is available worldwide.

Let us therefore daily and sincerely repent of our sins; let us keep our full trust and confidence in Christ Jesus as our personal Savior and Lord; and, let us go forward being fruitful in the faith, remembering to beware of unjust judgment and to be aware of God's just judgment. Amen.

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