

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

DATE: November 11, 2020

Wednesday Class: "Romans: God's **Good News** for the World"

### **A Righteousness from God: Needed (1:18-3:20)**

*What's wrong with the world? The wrath of God against all humankind.*

- First (1:18-32), he portrays **depraved gentile society** in its idolatry, immorality & anti-social behavior.
- Second (2:1-16), he addresses **critical moralizers** (whether Gentiles or Jews), who profess high ethical standards & apply them to everybody except themselves.
- Third (2:17-3:8), he turns to **self-confident Jews**, who boast of their knowledge of God's law, but do not obey it.
- Fourth (3:9-20), he encompasses **the whole human race** and concludes that we are all guilty and without excuse before God.

### **GOD'S WRATH AGAINST "CRITICAL MORALIZERS" (2:1-16)**

INTERPRETIVE QUESTION: Who is being addressed in Romans 2:1-16?

1. God's judgment on \_\_\_\_\_ pagan moralizers.
2. God's condemnation on the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God's indictment of all \_\_\_\_\_ regardless of race or religion, culture or creed.

GOD'S JUDGMENT: Six characteristics of God's judgment that we must understand.

1. God's judgment is \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 1-5)
  - A. REALITY: All have \_\_\_\_\_ (3:23)  
Illustration from EvanTell, Inc. – "The Rock"
  - B. WARNING: Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ (2:4, 5)  
Do not misinterpret God's patience as God's approval. God's patience, tolerance, and patience are meant to lead us toward repentance (see 2 Pet. 2:9).
2. God's judgment is \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 5-8). The word means "just, fair." We know that God's judgment is always based on truth (vs. 2)
  - A. God keeps the \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 6-8).
  - B. God knows our \_\_\_\_\_ (secrets, motives; vs. 16)

INTERPRETATION: This is one of the most difficult sections in Romans, because on the surface it seems to teach that salvation is by works; that eternal life can be earned “by persistence in doing good.” Such an idea, however, is foreign to the whole tenor of Scripture. To resolve the difficulty, we must bear in mind that at this point in the letter Paul is not discussing how a person is saved and receives eternal life. The passage has to do with God’s basis of judgment. Although Scripture everywhere teaches that salvation is not on the basis of works (cp. Romans 4:1-4; Eph. 2:8-9), it consistently teaches that God’s judgment is always on the basis of a man’s deeds. Paul describes the deeds of two distinct groups: the saved (vss. 7, 10) and the lost (vss. 8, 9). The deeds of the saved are not the basis of their salvation but the evidence of it. They (the saved) are not perfect & are prone to sin, but there is undeniable evidence of righteousness in their lives. The presence or absence of saving faith in our hearts will be disclosed by the presence or absence of good works in our lives. The apostles Paul and James teach the same truth, that authentic saving faith invariably issues in good works (Jam. 2:14; Gal. 5:6 – “faith expressing itself through love”).

There is a difference between the saved and unsaved:

- Our \_\_\_\_\_ (what we seek)
- Our \_\_\_\_\_ (what we do)
- Our \_\_\_\_\_ (where we are going; final destinies)

3. God’s judgment is \_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 9-11)  
In verses 9 and 10 ... “First for the Jew, then for the Gentile”

4. All will be judged according to the \_\_\_\_\_ they had (vss. 12-15)  
Two groups:

- A. “All who sin \_\_\_\_\_ the law” ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
- B. “All who sin \_\_\_\_\_ the law” ( \_\_\_\_\_ )

OBJECTION: “That’s not fair. How can people who never had the Bible (the OT Scriptures; the law) be judged for their sin? They don’t know right from wrong.” See verses 14, 15.

5. God’s judgment will take place through \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 16)

- A. Jesus claimed that the Father had entrusted all judgment to Him (Jn. 5:22, 27)
- B. Jesus spoke of himself as the central figure on the day of judgment (Mt. 7:21-23; 25:31ff)
- C. Paul in Athens spoke that God had both fixed the day & appointed the judge (17:31)
- D. Peter had earlier told Cornelius that same (Acts 10:42)

6. God’s judgment is \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ message (vs. 16)

- A. Jesus came to save us from the coming \_\_\_\_\_ (cp. 1 Thess. 1:9-10).
- B. Jesus came to save us from \_\_\_\_\_ (Titus 3:3-7).