

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

DATE: December 9, 2020

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

GOD'S WRATH AGAINST "SELF-RIGHTEOUS / CONFIDENT JEWS" (2:17-3:8)

Here the apostle Paul confronts the Jews head-on. They represent all those who depend on religion to get them to heaven. They thought they would escape God's judgment, but (like so many) what they were depending on (trusting in) for their eternal security was a false security. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death" (Prov. 12:14; 16:25).

The False Securities on which Jews Relied (2:17-29)

NIV Study Bible: "The presentation takes the form of a dialogue. Paul knew how a self-righteous Jew thought for he had been one himself. He cites one advantage after another that Jews considered to be unqualified assets. But those assets became liabilities when there was no correspondence between profession and practice. **Paul applied to the Jew the principles of judgment set form in verses 1-16.**"

1. The False Security of HERITAGE (2:17)
2. The False Security of KNOWLEDGE (2:17-24)
3. The False Security of RELIGIOUS RITUAL (2:25-29)

After demolishing the false securities on which Jews relied, Paul anticipated . . .

The Strong Objections the Jew Raised (3:1-8)

1. Objection #1 (vv. 1, 2): If these things (being Jewish; having the Law; the religious rite of circumcision) do not guarantee protection fr. God's judgment, is there any advantage in being a Jew?

Paul's Response: Jews "have been entrusted with the very words of God."

What a RESPONSIBILITY ! "Entrusted" means custodians/guardians of them; and transmitters of "the very words of God." And, what a TRAGEDY ! Israel's history is one long record of unbelief and disobedience. Paul develops this theme in Romans 10:1-4, 16-21.

2. Objection #2 (vv. 3, 4): What is some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness? If God's chosen people are unfaithful, does that necessarily mean that God cannot be faithful to His promises? Has Israel's unbelief canceled God's Word?

Paul's Response:

God remains true (faithful) though every man is a liar (Psalm 116:11). *The concept of God's faithfulness (God will never break a promise/a covenant made) despite Israel's unbelief (her unfaithfulness) is developed more fully in Romans 9-11 (see 9:6; 11:1, 11, 28-29).*

3. Objection #3: If God is honored in judging my sin, then I am really doing Him a favor by sinning. Instead of judging me, He should let me sin that He might be glorified even more. He certainly is not righteous to judge me. In fact, isn't He unfair to punish me?

Paul's Response:

A. Human reasoning is _____.

B. Sinners will not _____ God's judgment. Their condemnation is deserved.

GOD'S WRATH AGAINST _____ (3:9-20)

SUMMARY: Paul concludes that "all" (Jew & Gentile alike) are guilty & without excuse before God

1. The _____ of Sin

"Nine times in four verses (vss. 9-12) Paul mentions the universality of sin: "all" (four times); "no one" (four times); "not even one" (two times); "together" (once)." **NIV Study Bible Note.** The repetition hammers home Paul's charge: "that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin."

2. The _____ of Sin

Sin affects every part of our human constitution; every faculty and function; including our mind, our affections (desires, emotions), our sexuality, our conscience and will. In other words, our depravity is total.

A. _____

Their speech ("throats ... tongues ... lips ... mouths" in vss. 13-14) is . . .

- _____ (open graves)
- _____ (deceit)
- _____ (poison)
- _____ (cursing & bitterness)

B. Their _____ (vss. 15-17)

From talking of sin, they commit sin, even to the point of murder. Result, they and others are:

- "ruined" ... destroyed both materially and physically
- "miserable"
- "restless" ... restlessness/no peace (see Isa. 57:20-21)

C. _____ issues (vs. 18): "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

This is the doctrine/teaching of _____. This does not mean that every person is as bad & depraved as he or she could be. The totality of our corruption refers to its extent, not to its degree." Sin has twisted and tainted every part of our human constitution, every faculty and function. Our depravity is total. This includes . . .

- our _____ (the "mind")
- our _____ (our desires)
- our _____ (the "will")

3. The _____ of Sin

"There is ... no one who seeks God" (vs. 11), and "there is no fear of God before their eyes" (vs. 18). This of course is the result of the Fall (Genesis 3:1-24). Ever since that fateful day (see 3:6), human life and history has been shaped by kingdoms in conflict — conflict between the "big" kingdom of

God and the “little” kingdom of self. The fundamental difference between the two is who resides at the center. “Big” kingdom living is God-centered/Christ-centered. “Little” kingdom living is me-centered; its about my will and my way.

The characteristics of the “little” kingdom of self are:

Taken from Dr. Paul Tripp’s, Instruments in the Redeemer’s Hands (pages 12-16; copyright 2002).

A. Self - _____ (autonomy)

I have the right to do what I want to do when I want to do it.

B. Self - _____ (self-sufficiency)

I have everything I need in myself; I don’t need to depend on or submit to anyone.

C. Self - _____

I am the center of my world. It is right for me to live for myself and to do only what brings me happiness. The “little” kingdom of self thinks of this life as the _____.

D. _____

There is no perspective, insight, or theory, or truth more reliable than my own. I know better. It causes us to distort reality and live in worlds of our own making. It is as if we look at life thru a carnival mirror, convinced that we see reality.

E. Self - _____

Sin blinds me to the realities of who I am & tends to make me much more aware of the sin of others than my own.

F. Self - _____

I ask, “Am I satisfied with my life?” Not, “Is God honored with my life? Have I loved God above all else and my neighbor as myself? By His grace, have I lived up to his purpose & according to His design?”

G. Self - _____

Whose glory motivates you to do what you do and say what you say?

JEWISH ERRORS (vss. 19-20)

1. The string of OT quotations applied to those wicked & lawless _____.

Paul: “We know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law.”

2. The Jews thought that they could be “declared righteous” by _____ the law.

Paul: “No one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law.”

OUR RESPONSE

1. _____ the divine diagnosis of our human condition as the truth.

2. _____ to the only refuge there is: Jesus Christ who died for our sins & rose from the dead.

3. _____ Christ with others. We cannot monopolize the good news.