

# The Greatest Story Ever Told

## 5 - Will God Really Judge Us?

### Romans 2:1-16

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The Bible talks about the WRATH of God, and the JUDGMENT of God, but it's not popular or politically correct to talk about it anymore.

“The modern habit throughout the Christian church is to play this subject down. Those who still believe in the wrath of God (not all do) say little about it; perhaps they do not think much about it. To an age which has unashamedly sold itself to the gods of greed, pride, sex and self-will, the church mumbles on about God's kindness but says virtually nothing about his judgment... The fact is that the subject of divine wrath has become taboo in modern society, and Christians by and large have accepted the taboo and conditioned themselves never to raise the matter.” *Knowing God*, J.I. Packer, Intersociety Press, 1973, pg 148-149

#### I. Don't Fool Yourself About the Judgment of God

Romans 2:1-3

##### A. You're No Better than Anybody Else

**Romans 2:1** “Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself: for you who judge practice the same things.”

At the end of Romans 1, Paul wraps up a massive indictment of God against the gross and flagrant sins of the openly ungodly in v. 29-32. In chapter 2, he turns his attention to the ‘respectable’ sinner... yet we all find ourselves in v. 29-32.

**Romans 3:9-10,19** “What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all gone out of the way; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no not one.’ v. 19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.”

We so easily confuse religion and the Gospel!

**2 Corinthians 5:21** “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

The only way we can think we're better than someone else is because we're using our own standard rather than God's.

##### B. You Don't Get to Set the Standard that God is Going to Use

**Romans 2:2** “But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth...”

**Romans 2:11** “For there is no partiality with God.”

The judgment and wrath of God parallels the good news of the Gospel in Romans 1:16-17.

**Romans 1:16** “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

**Romans 2:8-10** “But to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness – indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Paul is saying every single one of us really knows God's accurate standard but we don't want to think about it!

**Romans 1:18-19** "For the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and wickedness of men, who **suppress the truth** by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them."

God is going to judge us according to His standard of truth... not according to our sincerity!

### C. There's No Way You're Going to Escape

**Romans 2:3** "And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?"

None of us are going to escape the judgment of God.

Christians who have placed their faith and trust in Christ's death and resurrection will escape the awful condemnation and wrath of God... but EVERYBODY will face a day of judgment before the one true living God.

**Hebrews 9:27** "...it's appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgment."

**Romans 2:16** "the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my Gospel."

"A startling thing has happened among Western Christians. Many of us habitually think and act as if there is no eternity - or as if what we do in this present life has no bearing on eternity... Being oblivious to eternity leaves us experts in the trivial, and novices in the significant. We can name that tune, name that starting line-up, name that actor's movie debut, name that country's leading export, and detail the differences between computer models or types of four-wheel drives. None of this is wrong, of course, but it is certainly revealing when we consider that most Christians, let alone the general public, do not even have an accurate picture of what the Bible says will happen to us after we die. We major in the momentary and minor in the momentous." Randy Alcorn, *Money, Possessions and Eternity* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1989), pp. 138-139

## II. Don't Ever Presume Upon the Mercy of God as an Excuse for Sin

The mercy of God was never designed to drive you deeper into sin or to motivate and free you to just live thoughtlessly and recklessly.

**Romans 2:4-5** "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God."

A lot of people today have a cavalier attitude about the mercy of God. They think IF there is a God, then His main job description is to bless me, forgive me, and answer my prayers.

But God doesn't have to forgive – He doesn't owe us anything. He's obligated to no one.

That's why it's called Mercy – not getting what you really deserve. But that mercy is based upon the free offer of eternal life that He offers through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The purpose of God's riches and goodness and forbearance and longsuffering in Romans 2:4 is to lead you to repentance! And if it doesn't, you're despising the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering!

The Greek word for 'despise' means to "Look down on... to disdain... to show no regard for" To just walk all over it and trample it underfoot... as if it's worthless.

**Romans 2:5** "But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God."

When you resist and ignore the mercy and longsuffering of God, you are actively accumulating God's wrath. And YOU YOURSELF are personally doing it to yourself. You can't blame it on someone else. You are storing up wrath in the day of wrath!

**Hebrews 10:30-31** "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

Today is the day of salvation. Repent of your sins. Put down your false standard of measurement, and cry out for God in mercy and grace to save you!

Consider the riches of His goodness and longsuffering and that it would lead you to REPENTANCE so that you will not face the wrath of God on that final day of judgment.