

LESSON 5: ROMANS 2:1-29-3:20

The Responsibility of Privilege

1. Why does the one who judges “have no excuse” (vv. 1-2)? How is it that the one who judges others for doing what one is doing oneself supposes he or she will escape the judgment of God (v. 3)
2. What is Paul saying in verse 4? To whom do these words apply? Why is this verse so important for understanding the life to which we are called?
3. Why should you not judge the sins of others? What principles should be applied when you suspect something is wrong in the life of another Christians? See Matthew 5:23-24 and Galatians 6:1-5.
4. What does a “hard and impenitent” heart produce (vv. 5)? What does it mean to say that one is “storing up wrath” for oneself on the day of wrath?
5. When Paul writes in verse 6 that God “will render to each one according to his works,” what does that mean? By what standard will God judge us (vv. 7-11)? But ... does this apply to Christians, too?
6. What standard does God apply when he judges those who know his law and those who do not (vv. 12-16)? What is to be the relationship between God’s judgment and his Law? Why does Paul need to say what he says in v. 13? Does it still need saying today?
7. In what ways does God’s judgment differ from man’s judgment (see especially vv. 11 and 16)?
8. What claims do the Jews make (vv. 17-24)? Are they wrong to affirm the benefits of the Law (as set forth in vv. 19-20)? What then is the problem? What charge is brought against the Jews?
9. If verses 17-24 were written to our church, what changes would Paul make?
10. The Jews placed great emphasis on circumcision because it was the visible sign that they were God’s people (vv. 25-29). How have some confused the sign with what it signifies? How might Christians today have a similar misunderstanding about religious rituals or practices?
11. Upon what does an outward religious ritual such as circumcision depend? See Deuteronomy 10:16.
12. Summarize the nature and condition of all mankind, as set forth in this entire section of Romans (1:18-2:29).

Righteousness, the Law, and Faith

1. What advantage has the Jew? And of what value is circumcision (v. 1-2)? What point is Paul making here?

2. And again, what's Paul's point in his discussion of faithfulness in verses 3-4? And again, what point does he go on to make in the following verses?

3. Let's follow his argument in verses 5-6, and then 7-8? What's his point in all this?

4. Who do you think he might be referring to in verse 8 when he mentions slanderous charges being made against the Christians? Why might someone make that charge? Might they do it today? How do we, at Faith Church, answer that charge?

5. Paul asks whether the Jews were any better off than the Gentiles, and then went on to answer his own question (v. 8). Explain his answer. And, well, in what way might in fact one say that the Jews were better off ?

6. Paul charges both Jews and Gentiles of being lost in sin (v. 9). How does Scripture support this charge? How are we to understand the world in this view (see verses 10-18)?

7. How can the statements in these verses be reconciled with the fact that some pagans seem to seek after God and lead exemplary lives?

8. What function does the Law serve (v. 20)?

9. Paul does not discuss the grace of God, 3:21-5:21, until he has discussed the judgment of God, 1:18-3:20. The good news is not proclaimed until after the bad news is understood. Why does Paul follow this order?
10. How do you compare Paul's understanding of evangelism with twentieth century methods of proclaiming salvation in Jesus Christ?
11. Imagine a courtroom scene with God as the judge and the world on trial. From what you have so far studied in Romans, summarize the charges, the supporting evidence, and the verdict against us.
12. How is the righteousness of God, 3:22-24, different from a righteousness which comes on by the Law, 2:5-13?
13. What does it mean to fall short of the glory of God?
14. In a court of law, a person who is "justified" is declared by the judge to have no legal charges against him. Given Rom. 1:18-3:20, what makes your justification remarkable? What does it mean to you to be "justified?"
15. What does your justification cost you, what does it cost God?
16. What did the death of Jesus demonstrate?
17. Why can't God overlook sin? What does this say about his character?
18. Why must redemption, 3:24, and propitiation, 3: 25, both be a part in your rescue from sin?
19. Where does faith fit into God's way of righteousness?
20. List the six questions in 3:27-31. What principles of justification can be identified?
21. Define salvation as described in Rom. 3:21-31.
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