

# ROMANS

THE GRACE OF GOD: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## God's Righteous Judgment

• Romans 2 : 1 - 16 •

Week 4

### DEVOTION

Do we take sin seriously? When school-age children seek to justify participation in an activity of which their parents do not approve, their most common reasoning is, "But everybody's doing it." Do we, as adults, still use this excuse? "Go with the flow!" "It's no biggie!" Do we ever justify our sin, as long as it's not one of the 'big' ones like murder or assault? If we do justify 'little' sins, does this mean we don't take God seriously? Because we are members of a church, does God not judge us because we are part of a privileged group? Does being a church member give us the right to judge others? Do children instinctively know right from wrong, even when the 'wrongs' are not on a 'list' created by parents? If so, how do they know?

So many questions!!

In chapter 2 of Romans, Paul turns his attention from the Gentiles to the Jews, many of whom (particularly the Pharisees), felt that keeping the Law did not apply to them, yet they judged others for ignoring the same Law. We'll see that Paul had strong admonition towards the Jews who felt they were exempt from judgment because they were sons of Abraham, and therefore had a privileged relationship with God.

There is a two-fold dilemma: first, man does not understand God's holiness, and secondly, he does not understand his own sinfulness. Man forgets that he is made in the image of God and that every sin distorts the image of God in which he is made.

God will judge sin. God's judgment is perfect. God knows our hearts far better than we do. Even the most religious people cannot fool God. By the end of the study we will see, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the sin in our hearts that we have not previously seen or admitted. We will be eternally grateful for repentance and forgiveness, and the riches of God's kindness, tolerance and patience.

### Monday

**Self-Reflection:** We begin the week by reflecting on ways we may be judging others, and how it affects our relationships.

**Read: Matthew 7:1-5; Psalm 139:23-24**

1. What does Paul mean in verse 1 when he says that the Jews, by passing judgment on others, are condemning themselves?
2. Do we ever catch ourselves judging others? Why is this wrong in God's eyes?
3. Do we ever do the same things for which we judge others? What should we do about this dilemma?
4. Explain how easy or difficult it is to love someone we are judging.

## Tuesday

**How to recognize our sin:** Thank God for the gift of repentance. Thank the Holy Spirit for convicting us of our sins.

**Read: Romans 2:5; Acts 2:38; Psalm 139:23-24**

1. What will be the outcome for those who are stubborn and unrepentant?
2. In his book entitled, *Seeking the Face of God*, Martyn Lloyd-Jones states: "You will never make yourself feel that you are a sinner, because there is a mechanism in you as a result of sin that will always be defending you against every accusation.... There is only one way to know that we are sinners, and that is to have some dim, glimmering conception of God." Can you relate to this statement? What must people do then, to recognize their sin?

## Wednesday

**Good deeds and salvation:** Can we be saved by good works? Today we'll explore Paul's statement in verse 7.

**Read: Romans 2:7; Romans 3:20-24; Galatians 5:6; James 2:26**

1. In Romans 2:7, Paul states that eternal life will be given to those who seek it by 'persistence in doing good.' Does this mean that if our unbelieving neighbour is persistent in doing good deeds, they will have eternal life with God? If not, what is Paul assuming?

## Thursday

**The law written on our hearts:** Today we explore who has the Law 'written on our heart.'

**Read: Romans 2:14; Jeremiah 31:33; 2 Corinthians 3:3; Genesis 1:27; Romans 8:7**

1. In Romans 2:14, in speaking to the Jews who have been given the Law, Paul explains that if the Gentiles keep the law, it's because the law is written on their hearts. Does this mean that unbelievers have God's law written on their hearts, by virtue of being created in God's image? Is this why there is no excuse for them to sin? Or... is God's law written on our hearts only after we are saved?
- 2..What's the difference between an unbeliever with God's law written on their heart, and a saved believer who has the same law written on his or her heart?

## Friday

**A place for the Law:** What is the role of the Law and how do we ensure we are not showing contempt for the riches of God's kindness and patience?

**Read: Romans 2:14-16; Romans 1:20; Romans 2:4; Romans 3:28**

1. Will those who have never heard of the Ten Commandments be condemned for breaking them? Why or why not?
2. If we judge others for not believing or keeping God's commandments, how does God view this according to Paul?
3. What functions does the law not fulfill?
4. Has anything spoken to your heart during this week of study?