

God Will Judge the Hypocrite

Romans 2:1-16

In Romans 2:1-16, The Apostle Paul shines the light of God's Word on those it calls - hypocrites.

Hypocrites are people who condemn the actions listed in the latter part of Chapter 1 but have no intention of getting right with God themselves. They may look Christian outwardly, but inwardly, they are guilty of many of the same sins as those who are wicked. Paul tells us some things of the coming judgment of God against sin as well as who will be affected by it and what the results will be.

PAUL BEGINS WITH THE REASON FOR GOD'S JUDGMENT 1-5

First, there is the Sinfulness of the Hypocrite 1

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.

I hope we all know that God's wrath will be revealed against all who are found guilty of their sinful and wicked lives. This applies to the hypocrite as well, because they merely play a part; pretending to be someone they are not. They say one thing then do something else and God tells us that no one will get away with this.

He judges the hypocrites because they assume His place in judging the lives and conduct of others. In **Matthew 7: 1-5** Jesus tells us that it is not anyone's place to pass judgment on another person. When we do, we are guilty before God!

Hypocrites are just as guilty as the people they judge because hypocrisy begins in the heart, and Jesus makes it clear that to have sin in your heart is as bad as actually doing that sin. It might help Christians to become more familiar with Jesus' sermon on the Mount in **Matthew**, chapters 5-7.

Then there is the Judgment of the Hypocrite 2-3

² But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. 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?

Without genuine repentance and turning to Jesus, everyone will face the same judgment as those who do evil! Paul is saying that this judgment will be based on the truth of what people really are. Remember, we may look at the outside, but God looks at the heart, **1 Samuel 16:7** - But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." The power of the evidence will condemn those who are guilty of judging others for the sins that they themselves are guilty of! The issue isn't the state of one's life; it is the state of one's heart.

Although we may be squeaky clean on the outside, God knows our hearts! If we are not in a genuine, living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, we will be doomed to face God's judgment. Christians may sit in the pews on Sunday's; but they better guard themselves against hypocrisy the rest of the week. Or else they may find themselves facing God's wrath along with the rest of the ungodly world. Remember the story of the Prodigal Son, well even though the older brother stayed and helped the father, it turns out that he was just as rebellious as the younger son, in the eyes of God. **Luke 15:11-32** is worth reading again.

The hardness of their hearts will bring Humiliation on the Hypocrites 4-5

⁴ Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? 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,

The sinful nature of hypocrites is reason enough for God's judgment. Outwardly, they may delight in the blessing of God, but inwardly they really despise His blessings. Although God's blessings can indicate His favor, the hypocrite's see the goodness of God as a stamp of approval on their conduct and take His grace for granted. If only they understood the reason for His patience. **2 Peter 3:9** - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

One day, just as sure as the wicked sinner will face his sins in the judgment of God, so will all the secret sinners. People may think they are hiding their sins, but they are really storing up God's wrath until the Day of Judgment.

PAUL CONTINUES WITH THE REALITIES OF GOD'S JUDGMENT 6-11

For one thing God's judgment is Personal 6

⁶ who "will render to each one according to his deeds":

We live in a society where people no longer want to take responsibility for themselves, but God's judgment of everyone's life is an individual matter. Each one will be judged according to their own merits. No one will pay for the sins of another and no one else will be judged for your sins. Therefore, God's judgment will be fair and tailored to each individual life.

Jeremiah 17:10 - I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

God's judgment will also be Appropriate because His plan is Perfect 7-11

⁷ eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; ⁸ but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath, ⁹ tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; ¹⁰ but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God.

Those who live right and continue seeking the Lord will enjoy His blessings, while those who deny Him and live for themselves will receive a proper judgment! However, God has provided one escape from His judgment, and everything hinges on what each person does with Jesus Christ! Salvation has and always will - come only through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ at Calvary!

Everyone will have an opportunity, and it will always be fair!

So, no one will receive special treatment from the Lord, and no one will get a free pass to do as they please and still be accepted by God. Everyone will be judged by the same criteria: Jesus Christ and their personal relationship to Him! God will not single some out for Heaven and others out for Hell;

PAUL FINISHES UP WITH THE UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S JUDGMENT 12-16

The Basis of God's judgment is their sin of Rebellion 12

¹² For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

Those who know the law and sin will be judged, and if they don't know the law and sin, they will still be judged!

Ezekiel 18:4 - "Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die. Many may not like it, but all who are caught in their sins when Christ returns, will face God's judgment.

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. There is only one remedy for sin and that is the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God's Judgment will be focused on our Reactions. 13-15

¹³ (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; ¹⁴ for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*)

Is this fair? Will those who have never been exposed to the Word of God still be held accountable? The short answer is YES, because we all have a conscience that tells us the difference between right and wrong. When we listen, our conscience can help us make moral decisions. But if we disregard our conscience, it can be just as critical as the sin of rebellion.

We need to understand that every person who is born into this world receives light from God.

In **John 1:8-9**, John writes about John the Baptists connection to Jesus. ⁸ "He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. ⁹ That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world." Those who haven't accepted Jesus are surrounded by the testimony of the existence of God, so yes, it is fair for God to judge them because His judgment is based on their reaction to that light! Now we can only imagine how God will hold believers accountable as they have the Holy Spirit and God's Word, as well as preachers and teachers to prepare them to let their light shine in this dark world.

The reality is that one day Jesus is coming to judge all men. 16

¹⁶ in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

When that day gets here all the secrets of men will be proclaimed publicly to show what their lives truly were, and that will be the basis of Jesus' judgment. Man's eternity will rise or fall on what He did with the Gospel of grace. It won't matter what our accomplishments, our standing in the community, or even how others perceive us. All that will matter is did we receive Jesus or reject Him. **1 John 5:12** - He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Conclusion

Where does that leave us today?

If we have Jesus as our savior and Lord, we ought to be letting His light shine brightly for those who don't have Him. We should be stirred by any life that denies the Lord. Whether hypocrite or homosexual, murderer or abuser, they are all the same in the eyes of the Lord (*they are lost without Him*). Any and everyone who has rejected Jesus is headed to Hell!

We all need to examine our own hearts.

Are we genuinely saved or will we face the impending judgment of God, with a hypocrite's heart?

We all need to ask God to help us to see others as He sees them, for the purpose of helping them to make a wiser decision about their relationship with God.