

God's Impartial Judgment

Romans, Part IX

Romans 2:1-16

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I. God's Judgment vs. Unrighteousness

The Gospel reveals *God's righteousness* in two ways. First, it reveals God's *righteous* _____ against all *unrighteousness* of men (1:18-3:20). Second, it reveals God's *righteous* _____ of all who *believe* in Jesus (3:21-5). It is the first of these that Romans 1:18-3:20 discusses. Paul writes, "*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against _____ ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...*" (1:18). Paul first addresses "in your face" *unrighteousness* (1:18-32). He then condemns hypocritical *unrighteousness* (2:1-16).

II. God's Impartial Judgment

A. You are inexcusable (1-2 cf. 1:20)

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

B. The Day of Wrath (cf. Jn 5:24ff; 1 Cor 1:8; 3:13; 5:5; Phil 1:6, 10; 2:16)

1. Repenting or Storing up Wrath (3-5)

Paul insists that the present time is either (1) one in which we _____ of our sins and "*treasure up*" salvation in the day of judgment or it is (2) one in which we continue in our sins and "*treasure up*" _____ in the day of judgment.

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?* 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,*

2. Eternal Life or Indignation and Wrath (6-11)

God's impartial judgment will end in one of two ways. Either you practice good and will be rewarded or you practice unrighteousness and will be condemned.

(A) ⁶*who "will render to each one according to his deeds":*

(B) ⁷*eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;*

(C) ⁸*but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,*

(C') ⁹*tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;*

(B') ¹⁰*but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*

(A') ¹¹*For there is no partiality with God.*

An Outline of Romans

- I. Introduction
 - A. Opening Greeting (1:1-7)
 - B. Travel Plans (1:8-15)
 - C. Theme (1:16-17)
- II. Credenda: "The Righteous by Faith" Shall Live
 - A. God's Wrath vs. Unrighteousness (1:18-3:20)
 - B. The Revelation of God's Righteousness (3:21-5)
 - C. The Triumph of God's Righteousness (6-8)
 - D. The Universality of God's Righteousness (9-11)
- III. Agenda: The Righteous "Shall Live by Faith"
 - A. Transformed not Conformed (12-13)
 - B. Patient not Proud (14-15:13)
- IV. Conclusion
 - A. Paul, Minister to the Gentiles (15:14-21)
 - B. Travel Plans (15:22-33)
 - C. Closing Greetings and Benediction (16)

3. Sinning without law or in the law (12-16)

God's impartial judgment is completely just because He judges equitably based on what the parties do know not what they do not.

¹²For 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 ¹³(for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; ¹⁴for 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, ¹⁵who 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) ¹⁶in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

God is a Righteous Judge. One Day all will stand before the Lord and before His Christ, His earthly King. On that day, everything that is now hidden will be revealed.

III. The Meaning of Impartiality

A. God's Impartiality (Dt 10:17; Ps 98:7-9)

Moses declares, *"For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe"* (Dt 10:17). God doesn't play favorites. He never justifies the wicked nor condemns the just (cf. Pr 17:15). Hence, God's impartiality is, on the one hand, good news (cf. Ps 98:7-9). God will always be just.

B. God's Call to Repentance (Heb 9:27)

In the context of Romans 2, however, God impartiality is also bad news. Those who practice unrighteousness, whether openly or secretly, will be judged. Hence, it is not enough to know the right things to do; we must _____ them (2:13). We must live up to the knowledge God has revealed to us. God's impartiality reminds us that our secrets will be exposed and that we need to repent now. We must beware lest we *despise the riches of God's goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering* and so *treasure up for ourselves wrath in the day of God's righteous judgment* (5).

C. God's Call to Righteousness (Ps 50; Jer 7:1-11; 2 Cor 5:9-10)

It is not enough to know the good or to praise the good; we must practice the good. God summons us to live righteously. Mere membership in the covenant is no guarantee of eternal salvation. All unrighteousness will be condemned. Psalm 50 declares:

⁴[God] shall call to the heavens from above, And to the earth, that He may judge His people: ⁵"Gather My saints together to Me, Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice." ⁶Let the heavens declare His righteousness, For God Himself is Judge. Selah... ¹⁶But to the wicked God says: "What right have you to declare My statutes, Or take My covenant in your mouth, ¹⁷Seeing you hate instruction And cast My words behind you? ¹⁸When you saw a thief, you consented with him, And have been a partaker with adulterers. ¹⁹You give your mouth to evil, And your tongue frames deceit. ²⁰You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son. ²¹These things you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you; But I will rebuke you, And set them in order before your eyes. ²²Now consider this, you who forget God, Lest I tear you in pieces, And there be none to deliver: ²³Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; And to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God."

True faith, the psalmist declares, always manifests itself in _____ (cf. Jas 1:22-25).

IV. Conclusion