|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  Romans 2:1-16 Sermon Outline  10/06/24  “At Least I’m Not Like Them”  **INTRO:**  Time period book of Judges describes humanity = very well Judg. 17:6  “*In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes*.”  One of hardest things to do = admit wrong  Vividly displayed in life of “Al Capone”/”Scarface”  Al Capone = arguably most famous gangster = Chicago  1925-1931 = most powerful mob boss = capitalized bootlegging = prohibition era  Brutal and hardened criminal = 11 years prison FBI = “Public Enemy Number One” | 2  But thought he was good guy!  He said:  “I have spent the best years of my life-giving people the lighter pleasures, helping them to have a good time, and all I get is abuse, the existence of a hunted man.”  Amazing he abused others yet he said he was abused!  Or take Pablo Escobar = Columbian drug lord 1980s/90s = “King of Cocaine”  Founder and leader of Medellin Cartel  Probably thought good person too!  He was known to help the poor  Point is if Al Capone/Pablo Escobar thought well of themselves, how much more “morally upright” people think of themselves! |
| 3  That’s what this section is about today  Last week Rom. 1:18-32 = looked at openly rebellious/those who purposefully reject God  In response God gives = over to desires  We saw degenerative effects of abandoning wrath of God = giving someone over  Starting in chapter 2 Paul anticipates those = say “amen” with Paul  “Yes I agree with you Paul that those who are murderers, evil, disobedient… etc. deserve judgment/wrath”  “But I want to let you Paul I am not one of those!”  Paul anticipates moral minority of society  Generally “good” in eyes of society/upright/obey the law/pay their taxes, etc. help someone out in need occasionally | 4  It’s kind of like the people here Milton-Freewater/Walla Walla  Hard-working good citizens, respectable, nice families, salutes the police officers, etc.  They have a sense of morality = recognize when something is wrong, yet they are not believers!  If Romans 1:18-32 is for those who are in Los Angeles, than Romans 2 is for us, this area!  What does Paul say to moral minority?  Rom. 2:1  *“Therefore you are without excuse, O man, everyone who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.”*  “O Man” = those passing judgment = those who view themselves better than those degenerates in Romans 1 |
| 5  What Paul is saying: Passing judgment = shows you have a standard  That standard = condemn you = cannot follow perfectly  So then Paul = what about Golden Rule?  How am I condemned?  Well, have you always treated everyone in everything how you would want them to treat you?  Have you ALWAYS allowed others to cut you off…?  Have you ALWAYS stopped to help be a witness in a car accident…? Etc.  “Okay, okay…maybe I have not always kept Golden Rule, but I think have always kept the concept of “Fair Play” = Englishman’s virtue  Really?... | 6  So let me ask…  Have you ALWAYS never skewed argument in your favor to win an argument over your spouse  Have you ALWAYS been fair to other people in all ways and in all circumstances?  Have you ALWAYS been honest, fair, and unbiased in everything?  Paul’s point: Moralist is equally guilty of God’s wrath  James 2:10  “*For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all*.”  You may not have been as malicious or evil in intent as Rom. 1 type of people but if you lied, you are viewed as breaking all the commandments  As committing murder, adultery, etc. |
| 7  You are a sinner like Romans 1 sinners!  Because = standard = perfection!  Paul continues 2:2  “*And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things*. *But do you presume this, O man—who passes judgment on those who practice such things and does the same—that you will escape the judgment of God?*”  Judgment = Not “not judge at all” but to “judge rightly”  Matt. 7 = “*Do not judge, so that you will not be judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with what measure you measure, it will be measured to you*.”  In other words: It’s natural and obvious God should punish the sins described in Romans 1  Implication: You should be punished too! | 8  Moralists believe = because they are not like these = not experiencing abandoning wrath of God = they’re good!  But Paul says, “No, you’re not good, you’re not ok! You’re actually in grave danger!”  V. 4  “*Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance*?”  Implication: God could send you to hell this instant! But He chose not to and instead is being kind to you by withholding His judgment in allowing men to come to repentance  2 Peter 3:9  “*The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some consider slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance*.” |
| 9  V. 5 Paul continues  “*But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.”*  Because not willing to remove log out of your own eye while trying to remove speck out of others = actually storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath where God’s righteous judgment will be revealed!  “Stubbornness” = hardening = skleroteis = MS  Hardening of tissues = death  Hardening of conscience = spiritual death  Every time you refuse to repent and acknowledge your own sinfulness = it is like storing up silver coins above your bed in the attic (explain illustration) | 10  On that final day Verse 6 God will:  “*repay to each according to his works*, *to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and anger.”*  We know salvation = not by works = faith  Genuineness of our salvation is shown through our works  Believers = seek glory, honor, and immortality of Christ = eternal life  Unbelievers = selfishly ambitious/do not obey truth = wrath and anger  Wait, hold up Paul…Is that us?! It can’t be!  You are describing those in Romans 1 right?!  Selfishly ambitious does not sound pretty or nice |
| 11  Moralists are = selfishly ambitious  If not obeying truth = disobeying truth  No middle ground  God doesn’t grade on curve (explain what teachers did to my test score)  Yet, = not how God’s judgment works  Either pass or fail  Jesus affirmed the either nature of salvation =  “All who are not with me are against me”  No neutrality with the gospel  And just in case the moral minority are in such shock that Paul is describing them, Paul essentially repeats what he just said in a different way | 12  Let me repeat verse 9  “*There will be affliction and turmoil for every soul of man who works out evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek,but glory and honor and peace to everyone who works good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.For there is no partiality with God.”*  God says I don’t care who you are,  rich/poor  How much good how much bad you’ve lived  Don’t care if you are a Jew or Gentile,  I show no partiality!  ILLUST:  God’s justice = lady justice blindfold  V. 12 Paul anticipates another objection: |
| 13  Okay Paul then what about us who don’t know the Law like the Jews do when they sin? Are they also accountable to the Law?  Paul’s answer starting V. 12  “*For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law. For it is not hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified.”*  Assumption of moralists: God will judge according to Law of Moses  Real answer: Not law of Moses per say, but the law that you are aware of, that you are trying to live by  If you sinned, you will be judged in death according to your sin and knowledge of right and wrong  If someone sins and fails to keep the Law of Moses, then they will be judged according to the Law of Moses | 14  Important: Those under the Law aren’t saved by hearing the Law but by actually living it out = doer of the Law  Whether you knew about the Law or not, you will perish regardless because its not about how much of the Law you have obeyed as if = standard/quota to fill = but is it about the fact that you have sinned!  That’s what Paul says later on in a couple of chapters  = Why did death reign from Adam to Moses but the Law of God was not yet revealed? = Because they sinned!  That’s what Paul reinforces in V. 14  “*For when Gentiles who do not have the Law naturally do the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they demonstrate the work of the Law written in their hearts,* |
| 15  *their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus*.”  When you see someone murdering someone = that is wrong! = prove Paul’s point  You don’t have God’s Law, but you prove that God’s Law is written on your heart to instinctively know that murder is wrong  Everyone knows that (place a sin) is wrong….etc.  And on day when Christ returns = conscience + thoughts called up to witness stand = either defend or accuse you  That’s why it’s so important = maintain a clear conscience before God Heb. 13:18  “*Pray for us, for we are convinced that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves well in all things*.” | 16  1 Timothy 1:5 “*But the goal of our command is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and an unhypocritical faith*.”  How about you?  How is your conscience?  Do you think it will defend you or accuse you on the day of judgment?  God not only play camera of life but secret camera in your heart that only you know (your spouse doesn’t even know!)  This is how penetrating God’s knowledge is  Heb. 4:12-13 “*For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are uncovered and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we have an account to give*.” |
| 17  No way to escape your own conscience if it knows you are guilty  Only one way to cleanse conscience  Only one way to escape wrath of God coming upon world for sin  By acknowledging = you are a sinner  Acknowledging lived double standard  That you have judged others = but broken same standard yourself  The reason why you cannot even keep your own standard = you are a sinner! No one is perfect!  When you recognize you are sinner, confess your sin to God and forsake them, turn from them and ask Christ Jesus to forgive of your sins and grant you eternal life  When you do he will forgive you of your sin | 18  Seek His forgiveness while it still may be found  God has not revealed His wrath to you so that you would call on His name  1 John 1:9  “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*  Bible: “*God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble”*  Humble your self recognizing you too are like rest of immoral majority in Rom. 1 in need of grace  God will respond by giving you grace |