

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

Studies in Romans

No 3

Series 1. Condemnation - No One Is Righteous
Seven Criterion for the Judgment of God

Scripture Reading: Romans 2:1-29

The standard of God's judgment is holiness. Holiness is simply what is right. Only God is holy. A person is either holy or not, and the Bible teaches that all men are unholy from birth. That is we all have the desire for good, but an inclination for evil. Paul gives his own testimonial. *"I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do - this I keep on doing."* Romans 7:18&19(NIV) It is an experience common to all. This leaves us with the question, 'What about my unholiness, my sin?'

They-Therefore-You. Notice the change in grammar, the person addressed between chapters one and two. Paul has described the barbarian-gentile in chapter 1 and is now addressing his readers who considered themselves above all that. This includes us! He has a message for the cultured, learned Greek and the righteous, religious Jew. These groups constitute the main thrust of his ministry. See Acts 20:21. How did they, how do we all, stand before God?

Seven Laws of God's Judgment as outlined by William Newell.

1. *God judges what is real* v2. Two words stand out here; 'judge' which has the meaning of judgment, condemnation, sentence and punishment, or the process of law as administered by the court and 'truth' which is truthfulness as related to reality, what is really there. There is no place for slick lawyers who bend the evidence, for all the issues and actions of life are open before His eyes. God sees them happen.
2. *God judges accumulated guilt* v5. Continued impenitence - every step takes us further from home; what we consider water under the bridge, God gathers up. Every drip fills the bucket. What man thinks is insignificant,

(Matthew 5:28) God takes into account on the day of judgment. Note the antithesis: despising riches - treasuring wrath.

3. *God judges men justly* v6-10a. Could God do otherwise? He rewards the acceptable and the unacceptable accordingly, taking it all into account. Paul quotes Proverbs 24:12 God will assess us by our actions, not by what we think we deserve. See Revelation 20:11-15. He will give every act its true weight of response. He will not weigh short. His balance is just but He is not blind. His gaze is true and His assessment is true. He is utterly just.
4. *God judges impartially* v10b-13. The Jew received the promises of God and the covenants and the law and therefore has a greater responsibility, so also the teacher and the recipients of God's grace 1 Peter 4:17. The greater the understanding, the greater the responsibility. Each must answer on their own account and at their own level for their own life choices. This principle does not excuse the guilty. It calls all to answer.
5. *God judges results, not theory* v14-15. The principle here is that it is not lack of wisdom or the absence of religious ritual which sets the criterion of assessment,

but our actions. If a person knows to do right once they know to do right always. When we instinctively do right once we acknowledge a standard of righteousness, even if that standard is imperfect. To not do right consistently is a breaking of the self-set acknowledgement of a standard (True holiness is the standard of absolute righteousness).

By this same reasoning to hold some fuzzy idea that God will 'let people off' because they did not read the Bible, or that God will add up all our good works and balance them against all our sins, or that we can earn indulgences is self deception. God judges on the results of our lives not the religious or moral theory we hold.

6. *God judges hidden motives* v16. The Bible teaches that our actions are but the outward manifestation of our heart condition; that what we do is an expression of what we feel and think. (Luke 6:45, Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 12:34). For a man to lust after a woman is to commit adultery with her in his heart, Jesus said this is as great a sin. It is not the looking, but the lusting that is condemned, and this is an automatic reaction of the evil of our hearts. On the day when all men stand before the judgment seat of Christ all secrets of every heart will be exposed for assessment. (1 Corinthians 4:5, Ecclesiastes 12:14.)

7. *God judges all religious people* v17-29. Religious righteousness is self

righteousness and self righteousness is self condemnation because it is relative to what is perceived, it is 'as far as it goes' but is never complete. While claiming to be holy, the self righteous are in fact unholy and therefore become a by-word, a proverb for failure and *'God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you'* v24.

All have sinned and fall short of the holiness of God Romans 3:23 This is true for Jew, Gentile, Greek and Barbarian. For you and me. But it is

equally true that Christ Jesus died for all. Knowledge of our sin drives us to seek the mercy of God.

Whilst God does not overlook sin, He has a remedy. That remedy is that He has dealt with the penalty of sin when He sent His only Son to die on the cross. There Jesus paid the price of sin for all who will accept Him. Pardon is on offer for all and for free. Forgiveness is by the grace of God alone through our trusting in what Jesus has done for us, but it must be accepted. Although a gift is on offer, the gift cannot be effective if it is rejected or neglected. Have you, my reader, accepted God's great gift? If not, why not? Do it now! Simply tell God that you want His free forgiveness and say, 'Thank-you'.

When you make this great step the Holy Spirit will begin to work in you heart to make you to be more and more the kind of person you want to be, and the kind of person that pleases Him. See v29.

If you on reading this study have decided to trust in the forgiveness of God, or if you want to, send an email and tell us, as we would like to help and encourage you.

Email us on postmaster@glenparkgospel.org.au and we will write to you personally.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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