

The righteous judgment of God is for all.

Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. (3:9)
that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world
held accountable to God. (3:19)
all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (3:23)

The final just judgment of God is ultimately good news.

Only by acknowledging our own guilt and committing to continual repentance will we learn to be humble, authentic, and sensitive to the Spirit's leading.

The Christian should:

- humbly confess his/her own sin and struggle,
- passionately pursue greater personal holiness,
- freely admit failure,
- encourage others to strive for God's best, and
- leave judgment to Christ.

Going deeper in the word...

1. How can Paul say that people condemn themselves when they pass judgment on others? (Romans 2:1)
2. Is there a difference between "judging" what is right and wrong—and "being judgmental" of people?
3. What should be clear to us about the final judgment of God?
4. Why do you think the harshest words of Jesus were spoken to the "hypocrites"? (Matthew 23)
5. In what way does the kindness of God lead people to repentance? (Romans 2:4)

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in the word

romans

THE GOSPEL OF GOD

Judgment and the Judgmental

Romans 2:1-5

¹⁶ *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...*

¹⁷ *For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed...*

God's "righteousness" includes both His "salvation" and His "wrath."

¹⁸ *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness...*

"The wrath of God" is:

"against" all godlessness and wickedness (18)

because men: "suppress the truth" (18)

reject the revelation of God (19-20)

refuse to glorify God or give thanks (21)

exchange God's glory—for images (23)

"The wrath of God is being revealed" by God "giving them over" to the sin they have chosen.

Paul uses the illustration of homosexuality (1:26-27)

-not because it is "the worst sin"

-but to illustrate "exchanging" the design of God

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Carl Palmer, Pastor-Teacher

God's judgment of the judgmental is certain.

¹ *You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.*

God's judgment is "according to truth."

² *Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.*

God's judgment is inescapable.

³ *So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?*

God's judgment is delayed—for grace.

⁴ *Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?*

God's judgment is accumulating wrath.

⁵ *But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.*

We must not think that Paul is saying we are not to discern what is right and wrong.

"The gospel"—that announces Jesus as the Savior—also announces Jesus as the Judge of all the earth.

This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

Romans 2:16