

Romans 2:1-16

Why Moral & Religious People Need Jesus

Tonight we continue working our way through the book of Romans – and in our study last time 1:18-32

A) We saw where Paul began to build a case for why the world everyone in the world needs Jesus / gospel.

B) Chapter 1:16 Paul made this glorious declaration *I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ*, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

C) The Gospel the good news of Jesus – what He did to rescue man has the power to Save – anyone and everyone who believes

1) Jew or gentile it doesn't matter –

D) Then He continues V.17 ¹⁷ *For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

The gospel reveals how unrighteous people – people lost in sin, damned – separated from God can be made righteous

A) It is thru FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST – the just – those declared righteous live by faith

B) That is where Paul is headed in this book – but before he gets there – **he builds a case for why everyone needs the gospel**

1) Everyone needs what Jesus did for them

C) We noted last week that Paul starts with the Pagan – primarily the Gentile world – non Jewish world

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

“Wrath is the holy revulsion of God's being against that which is in contradiction of his holiness.”
(Andrew Murray)

B) So his **Wrath is the holy revulsion or reaction to anything that is contrary to his holiness**

The indictment against the Pagan Crowd is that they reject the testimony of Creation.

A) Creation points to a creator - - but the Pagan refuses to even acknowledge God in his thinking

B) They choose to worship the creation rather than the creator

C) So in response to their rejection of Him – this is how God's wrath is revealed - 3 times Paul uses this statement

So God gave them over futility of their pursuits - pig pen – come to end of themselves

V24 – God gave them up to uncleanness or sexual impurity –

Dishonor themselves – pursuing the lust of the flesh

Paul seems to be laying out that the first step in Man's rebellion is to reject God's design for sex in marriage –

V.26 God gave them up to vile passions – which resulted in Homosexual and lesbian behavior - doing what is shameful and not natural

Man going against the original God intended design for men and women.

But we noted that we must not stop there – because Paul continued in V. 28 God gave them over to a debased mind – this was the result – men were filled

with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers, ³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, ³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; ³² who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Basically the result of Man rejecting God and being left to **his follow his own desires is all MANNER of Selfish and destructive behavior.**

So that was the focus of Chapter 1:18-32 – The testimony of Creation

A)God's original design

B)But there would no doubt be those even in the gentile world who would respond to Paul's accusation that they are not like that –

C)They are Moral people moral educated - who try to live life respectfully – treat others fairly

D)They would accuse Paul of sort of lumping the whole **Gentile world into one broad brush stroke – gentile world**

1)and their protest would be Paul there are a lot of us who are not that way

E)They would even say they generally condemn those who behave the way of those you described in **V.18-32**

But we are not like that We are generally good people –honor the marriage bed -

A)We are fair people – who try to treat all people fairly and with respect

B)On the other hand there would be those Jewish people and religious people who in hearing Paul's indictment in 1:18-32

1)Would be prone to state their approval of Paul's indictment in Chapter 1 –

C)You go Paul - lay it on those heathen dogs – let them have it – yea the wrath of God is reserved for them

Paul would respond to both the moralist and the Jewish religious person – NOT SO FAST – YOU ARE NOT OFF THE HOOK

A)You also are sinners in need of a Savior

B)In 2:1-16 Paul is going to give us 4 Insights into God's Judgment of the Moral Crowd:
#1 God's judgment is according to truth

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. 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?

The first insight into the minds of self-righteous moralizers is that they do not understand the nature and extent of sin.

A)You know most people don't have a problem admitting that they are sinners.

B)But the problem is most people don't understand the gravity of their sin.

C)Most people would readily agree that those who are guilty of the **"BIG SINS"** – murder, rape, child abuse, deserve serve judgment

D)But the idea that God's wrath would fall in the same way on those who commit "lesser sins" like lying, gossip, envy, or pride

1)Doesn't seem fair at all

E)We even have the tendency to justify or make excuses for the "lesser sins" by saying things like – everyone is doing it.

1)Or Nobody's perfect, or even to err is human but to forgive is divine

Here is the Problem we don't understand the nature of the extent of sin

A)All sin is repulsive to God because it is a contradiction to his holiness – The light after being in a movie –

B)All sin is also a distortion of the fact that man has been made in the image of God – made to reflect his glory.

C)God judges all sin the same! His judgment V.2 is according to truth.

1)The truth of the matter is God knows all and sees all.

The person who is prone to point the finger at the wicked – needs to realize – 3 pointing back

A)The person who says – I am glad – I am not like them – is more like them than they think.

B)This is what Paul means I think when he says 4x that you who want to judge others are guilty of practicing the same things

C)How am I guilty? Jesus taught in the sermon on

the MT that it is not just our actions that condemn us – it is also our attitudes

You say I have not committed adultery.... Look to lust – adultery in your heart

A) You say – Not murdered – angry without cause

B) How many times have you killed with your words?

1) Stabbed someone in the back with gossip ?

C) We try to make our sins not seem so bad by renaming them

1) Others lie and cheat—we simply stretch the truth.
Others betray—we protect our rights.

2) Others steal—we borrow. Others are prejudiced—we have convictions.

D) If we are honest – we have all sinned in this way – that is Paul’s point.

1) Not seeking to point the finger in condemnation but he wants even religious and moral people to understand why they need Jesus

2nd insight God’s patience and kindness should not be interpreted as acceptance of our sin

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

A) When People sin and “nothing happens” – God must be ok with this – must not be as bad as I thought – rationalize

B) They might even come down on others in an extreme way who are doing the same or even lesser sins

C) David with Bathsheba – Uriah – killed

D) Looked like David got away with it – even the Hero – married the poor pregnant widow

God sends Nathan with a story - the man with the lamb – He should die – Extreme!

A) Our sin always looks worse on someone else right?

Can’t believe them

3rd insight: The storehouse of man’s deeds reveals that he is guilty.

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, 6 who “will render to each one according to his deeds”:

When a person refuses to acknowledge their need of a savior and continues to contend that their deeds will save them.

A) Paul says in actuality your deeds are going to condemn you here is why:

B) The phrase treasuring up means to store away day by day

C) Every wrong deed that you have ever done – every wrong word that has ever been uttered –
1) every lustful, hateful, envious thought is being added to your account.

D) It is like you are making deposits in you sin bank account and it is growing bigger and bigger.
1) Like filling a water balloon with a hose – it burst

See the mistake that moral people make is this – they think – My good is going to outweigh my bad

A) Doesn’t work that way – it is not about more good that bad or right behavior vs sinful behavior

B) Sin once – you miss the mark!

C) Oceanside Pier – Jump to Catalina – Grandma 2 feet –

1) Young athletic stud – 20 feet – guess what they both fell way short

So God will render to each one according to his deeds 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.

Is Paul saying here that salvation comes by works? Of course not.

A) Context is judgment not salvation – Salvation is

by grace through faith in the finished work of Christ

B)But he is saying that judgment will be according to works.

1)That is, all unbelievers will one day stand before God at the Great White Throne, where what they have done will be judged.

C)If they have done total good, giving God all glory in everything they've said, done, or thought, they'll make it to heaven.

In other words, to the moralist, to the person who is super pious, Paul is saying, "If you are really good, you'll make it in.

A)If all of your days you've glorified God with all of your heart,

Aa)and have lived honorably in everything you do, say, and think, you'll inherit eternal life."

B)But guess what. Only one Man has ever lived like that- JESUS

1)THE STANDARD IS PERFECTION – PERFECT RIGHTNESS

C)So we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God! – Which is the point that Paul is building toward in chapter 3

D)The person who wants to stand on his deeds is going to be condemned by his deeds.

1)They argue – role the tape Gabriel

E)Imagine if this week – if God were to publish on a YouTube channel a week in the life of Rob

1)Everything I did – said and thought – Scary – probably wouldn't want to leave my house most weeks

4th Insight into God's judgment is this there is no partiality in God's Judgment.

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

The Jewish person – or the religious person – may think that he is saved because he has the law; but has he kept it?

A)The Jews took confidence in the fact that the law of God had been entrusted to them.

B)Problem was they didn't keep it – they didn't follow the law

1)The law they claimed to have loved condemns them

C)But what about the Gentile who says – we didn't have the law – didn't know that God said such and such was a sin

D)Paul says they have an eternal law – the law of the conscience

Their conscience also bearing witness:

A)People who have never heard God's word directly still have a moral compass they are accountable to – the conscience.

B)He is not saying that the law is written on their hearts, as people often say, but that the work of the law,

1)what the law requires of people, is written there."

C)Every human being in the world – every culture in the world has this built in sense of right and wrong – called Conscience

1)Where we know that things like Lying is always wrong – Stealing is always wrong/adultery... Murder.....

D)To refrain from those things is always right!

E)Paul says – the standard has been written in their hearts –

1)even secular authors referred to the unwritten law within man

When talking about the conscience – here is the reality – no one perfectly lives up to their standard

A)No one lives up to the standard of their conscience

B)Or to the standard of life that our conscience dictates that we ought to live

1)Who broke their conscience this week? Today?

C)The fact that we do not live up to the standard of our conscience –

1)Reveals that our conscience does not have it's standard in us

D)But the standard of our conscience is found in God who is greater than us

Therefore our conscience is always testifying to us of two great things – all day every day.

A)#1 We have been created by someone who greater than us – who have given us this conscience

B)#2 We have been created as being greater than we are now –

1)but we have fallen from that which is greater

D)So everyday all day – by way of our conscience in every country and language our conscience communicates to us we are fallen –

1)we are fallen – we are fallen

E)Like a great flashing neon light = FALLEN

1)One time man was greater that we are now – but we have fallen

So in Chapter 1 Paul says to the Pagan crowd – you need a Savior - Creation condemns you –

A)Rejected the creator to serve creation – created serve man / serve self

B)Chapter 2 He says to the Moral crowd – You needs a savior

- Your deeds are going to condemn you –**
- Your conscience condemns you**

He is going to go on to say in an even more pointed way to the Jewish crowd – you need a Savior – the law condemns

A)But this is the GOODNEWS FOLKS – GOD SENT HIS SON JESUS TO BE THAT SAVIOR

B)There is a righteousness of God that is in the Law – but the problem is no one could perfectly keep it

C)So the Wrath of God is being revealed and will be revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men

But here is the good news there is a righteousness of God revealed apart from the law – Through faith in Jesus Christ

A)That is what we need!