

August 22, 2021

True Belief Versus Religion

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Romans 2:1-16 ¹You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on another. For on whatever grounds you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. ²And we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. ³So when you, O man, pass judgment on others, yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? ⁴Or do you disregard the riches of His kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you to repentance? ⁵But because of your hard and unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶God "will repay each one according to his deeds." ⁷To those who by perseverance in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give eternal life. ⁸But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow wickedness, there will be wrath and anger. ⁹There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil, first for the Jew, then for the Greek; ¹⁰but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good, first for the Jew, then for the Greek. ¹¹For God does not show favoritism. ¹²All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but it is the doers of the law who will be declared righteous. ¹⁴Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵So they show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts either accusing or defending them ¹⁶on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Christ Jesus, as proclaimed by my gospel. (BSB)

I. Here are the details of this passage.

- A. What are the "**same things**"? V. 1 They are any sin listed in the list of evil behaviors in chapter 1. Some of these are: idolatry, unrighteous sexual behavior, wickedness, evil, greed, depravity, envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossip, slander, god-hating and disobedient to parents.
- B. We will face **God's** judgment for judging others without first addressing our own sin. V. 3
- C. God's **kindness** is intended to lead us to repentance. Our **kindness** to others will have the same result. V. 4
- D. A sliding scale of **judgmentalism** shows a hard and unrepentant heart. V. 5 This needs to be addressed in our lives.

- E. We will be judged by God for our deeds. God does not have a **sliding scale!** V. 6-11
- F. Knowing Scripture does not release you from being held **accountable** for what you do or don't do. V. 12-15
- G. God will judge all of mankind with the basic question of "who is Jesus to you **personally?**" V. 16

II. How can we apply this Scripture?

- A. Self-righteousness needs to be **confessed** just as much as committing any one of the sins listed in chapter one.
- B. We must walk the **fine line** of not judging the unsaved but still holding ourselves to a standard.

I Corinthians 5:9-13 ⁹I wrote you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people. ¹⁰I was not including the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. ¹¹But now I am writing you not to associate with anyone who claims to be a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a verbal abuser, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat. ¹²What business of mine is it to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? ¹³God will judge those outside. "Expel the wicked man from among you." (BSB)

- C. We must **compare** our professions to our actions to discover just what role Jesus Christ plays in what we really believe.