

Romans
Message 27
The Morality Cults 04, The Judgment of God
Rom 2:1-11

- 1 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.
- 2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.
- 3 And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?
- 4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?
- 5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;
- 6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds:
- 7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:
- 8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,
- 9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;
- 10 But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:
- 11 For there is no respect of persons with God. KJV

Introduction:

We should not pass on from this passage without spending some time thinking about what Paul said in v.2, “the judgment of God is according to truth,” because that very thing is being doubted everywhere today, including in Evangelical Churches. The things which Paul affirmed were under the condemnation of God are things that are being allowed and even celebrated in circles which were once known for being the most conservative in existence, faithful in every way to the Revelation of God in scripture.

Paul has just affirmed in no uncertain terms the fact that men and women have sinned against God in horrible ways and that they know that God’s condemnation of those things is certain and that those who commit them are worthy of a death sentence for them.

Rom 1:26-32

- 26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:
- 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their

lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.
28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;
29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,
30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,
31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:
32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.
KJV

And, now, in our text, he has turned to affirm that this judgment of God is “according to truth.” And it is so obvious that this is true that even some people who are unconverted but religious affirm that to be a fact.

2 But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

The ‘we’ here is Paul, true believers, and even many moralists and religious persons who are not identified as ‘Christian.’

This is a matter about which there are growing questions among those who identify as believers in Jesus Christ.

This is because there is a cultural and political movement gaining momentum which seeks to cast the historic beliefs of Christianity in the light of being hateful, prejudiced and hurtful. Such thoughts and opinions, say many, no longer have a place in public discussions and actually should be shamed out of existence if not outright destroyed.

Paganism has never been a friend of freedom of conscience. You remember how that Hananiah, Azariah, and Mischael were thrown into a fiery furnace in Babylon for daring to have a different opinion about the worship of the king’s idol. And Daniel was cast into a den of hungry lions for having the audacity to affirm his right and freedom to pray to God regardless of what the king’s edict said. You may also remember the riot that Paul caused at Ephesus for calling into question the worship of Diana. And, then, there is that frightening prophecy recorded by John of a time when all will be required to fall down and worship the Antichrist rather than the Deity of heaven.

We all know that we are living in an increasingly pagan day, that Paganism denies the Christian God and violently rejects the idea that He judges and condemns their sins or that such condemnation is “according to Truth.” So... it is appropriate for us today to visit again these ideas and affirm what we hold to be true concerning them.

When we began this section we identified the person in v.1 as a Morality Cult member. Such a

person would be a religious individual who had a strict moral code, such as the Jews did. In v.17 of this chapter Paul will narrow his focus to the Jews particularly but we also know that there exists a variety of moral/religious systems which would also fit at targets for his words here, people who have a list of sins they condemn and another list which they may either quietly or openly affirm.

Such people have a problem, which Paul points out in our text. Their devotion to their principles of morality is not absolute. Some of the things they practice or affirm are sinful and they actually think that they will escape the judgment of God because of the morality they do practice.

As we said in a previous message, such a person creates a scenario in his mind in which he condemns some sins while holding to others and works out a scheme in his mind in which such a scheme is acceptable to God. Those on the outside of his scheme are condemned by God and those on the inside are approved even though they continue to practice things similar to those they condemn in others.

There is a mental/spiritual/moral deformity in such people and it causes them to entirely miss the point Paul is making, “the Judgment of God is according to Truth.”

This is a massive reality. This is an affirmation that God’s rejection of those who practice wickedness is absolutely right and just, moral and consistent with Eternal Truth.

It is sad but those who would stand with Paul in this affirmation are growing fewer by the day in our time.

This great principle is almost totally missed by Religionists, those we have called members of the Morality Cults. They might also be called Religious Contortionists who are able to twist their own minds and consciences to the degree that they think God is willing to overlook sin in them and condemn it in others.

Let me give an example. During the Inquisitions of the 13th and 16th centuries men were appointed by the Roman Church, supposedly men of God, some of them high-ranking church officials, to hunt down and exterminate people who were judged to be troublesome heretics. In the process they often subjected simple bible-believing people to horrible tortures and cruel deaths for holding opinions contrary to the doctrines of the Roman church.

Some of them may actually have been heretics, holding to doctrines and beliefs rejected by all Orthodox believers, but here is the thing, torturing people for having wrong theology is itself contrary to the teachings of scripture.

Matt 5:43-44

43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; KJV

Rom 12:14

- 14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. KJV
Rom 12:17-21
- 17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.
18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.
19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.
20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.
21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. KJV

So, the one who condemned heretics and tortured them was himself a heretic because of the way he treated others.

This is the wrangle that the Religious Contortionist creates for himself.

Such people have no real grasp on the reality that “the Judgment of God is according to Truth.”

Such a God as they imagine would be unjust, punishing some sins and letting others go... or even blessing them.

The Apostle Paul himself as we have seen was just such a person who had miserably treated very godly and believing people crediting himself with doing service to God in the process of it.

But, if there is anything which we as believers should ‘lock in’ on it is just this, “The Judgment of God is According to Truth.”

And, we must realize that this Judgment is His condemnation of all ungodliness. We are being pressured more and more in our day to back away from that affirmation. This message today is to encourage you not to do that.

A part of the true worship of God is the holding of Him to be Holy and True in all things, especially in that which He affirms as True and Right but just as much in that which He declares to be False and Wicked. He is Holy, True and Just in all of that without equivocation and without compromise.

This issue of the Faithfulness and Truthfulness of God was one very important to the Apostle. In chapter 3 and v.3 he took up the point again.

Rom 3:3-4

- 3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?
4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.
KJV

It is vital that we hold the positions revealed to us by God to be Sacred and Righteous, Holy and True in every way. To let go of that is to step away from holding His Name as Hallowed and

that we must never do.

I would like to quote from Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones on this matter. “I emphasize this because if we do not grasp this teaching that the judgment of God is always according to truth, we shall, of course, not believe in the doctrine of the wrath of God. There are many today, as we saw, who do not like the doctrine of the wrath of God. And they do not like it because they have not realized that the judgment of God is always according to truth. Again, if we do not accept this, we shall not accept the doctrine of justification by faith only, and shall not see any need for it. But what is still more serious, as I want to show you, is that if we do not grasp this teaching we shall never really understand the doctrine of the atonement, which is the bedrock of our whole position.”

What he was saying is that there are certain pillars upon which our whole faith stand and one of them is this one we are looking at today.

There is also another great danger of failing to see this principle and that is we are subject to falling into the horrible sin of Antinomianism. Now, you may not know it by that term but you see it all around you. It goes something like this, “God has saved me and forgiven me of my sins therefore it really doesn’t matter how I live, I am saved and that is all I need.” Such people have no concern about the Righteous Judgment of God. They do not recognize that it is possible for a person to come very close to Salvation and miss it because they do not repent of their sins. They may believe many good things and have a list of morals they keep but then.... there is that other list, things that are wicked like the list held by the man in our text. God demands repentance from All Sins and that Judgment He renders is according to Truth.

It is sad to think that so many are going to be found in that place of arguing with God and hearing the words, “I never knew you,” that we see in Matt 7:21-23.

We must hold fast to that which Paul affirmed to the pagans at Athens, “God has commanded all men everywhere to repent.” And, we must also know that He condemns those who do not, even those who may be very moral and even may have professed faith in Him. The command is for all of us.

This doctrine is found everywhere in the scriptures. Abraham, when praying concerning Sodom and Gomorrah, affirmed his confidence that “the Judge of all the earth” would do what is right.

He gave the Law to Israel in the wilderness and all of that elaborate worship system of sacrifices to show His judgment and condemnation of sin. “Without the shedding of blood there is no remission.” And, it was to be kept just as He had given it because both His Law as well as Himself is Holy and Just and True.

David took note of this reality as well.

Ps 11:4-7

4 The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

- 5 The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.
- 6 Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.
- 7 For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright. KJV

The Lord is watching from His Holy Temple and He is making determinations upon men. Some of them He is going to preserve and reward. Some of them He is going to destroy in a horrible way. And, every decision, every determination is according to Truth, done in Righteousness.

All of the saints of God both Old and New Testament have embraced these realities. The True Church herself for 2000 years has affirmed this principle as bedrock Truth. We dare not walk away from it. We dare not affirm that what God has condemned is acceptable. Our forefathers went to their death rather than compromise on Truth and we can bear some pain and discomfort to follow their example. We can bear the rejection of some and the name calling by others.

If we understand our Bibles correctly there is coming a time again when God's people will be murdered for holding to Truth. We may be in that generation.

John, in his first epistle, affirms "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."

Please understand. There is nothing wrong with God. There is nothing about Him to be embarrassed about. It is this generation and its wickedness that is embarrassing. If you are going to be embarrassed and ashamed, be ashamed for them.

Our opinions on this matter define in some important ways our practice of faith. If the Judgments of God are always according to Truth that means that God has no varying standards. What He requires of one He requires of all. The Jews, for one, did not truly believe that and neither to the other Morality Cults. They think God has one standard for them and another for everyone else.

This thought, this opinion, is simply not allowable for anyone who believes in a Perfectly Holy and Righteous God. We realize that He condemns our sins just like He does the sins of others and that the demands for repentance upon us are no less than what He demands of any man or woman on the planet.

We know that no one has a special deal with God in which some of their sins are allowable that are punished in others.

Neither do the standards of God change because our calendar rolls over to a new year or a new century or a new millennium. What was ungodly for Sodom is ungodly for Olive Branch and Hernando. That which was righteous in Abraham is counted as righteous when God finds it in you.

I spoke last Sunday evening of the importance of Church History and this is another piece of

that. We should be interested in how Christians have always lived because the standards by which faithful people have lived as they served God should be embraced by those in every century.

One of the religious leaders of our day has been quoted as saying, “whatever is new is false,” and that is especially true when it comes to principles of morality.

The reasons that the standards never change is to be found in the very Character of God Himself.

James 1:17

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. KJV

God does not change. His ideas do not change. And, so, His Law does not change. And, it is not that God must hold to some standard, that He is ‘duty bound’ by some set of principles, He Himself is the standard and His thoughts are the principle.

The problem, if we can call it that, for man is that God’s knowledge of all things is perfect and complete. When He sees a person commit an act He knows the act itself but also all of the motivations for the action. When He sees a person dreaming about doing a thing or wishing and longing for something, He knows that perfectly as well.

Luke 16:15

15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God. KJV

And, so, He is never wrong when He makes a judgment as to whether an action or a thought is righteous or wicked.

Furthermore, a record is being kept of all of the observations of God concerning every person and those things will be used at the Great Judgment of God.

Rev 20:12

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. KJV

Finally, there is no way around confrontation with the Righteous Judgment of God.

If ever God had a favorite person it undoubtedly was David and yet when David sinned, the discipline of God fell heavy upon him.

If ever God had a favorite people it was the Jews but when they departed from Him, rejected and murdered His Son, then refused, as a nation to hear the testimony of the Gospel by His apostles,

God tore down their city, even His Own Temple and scattered the nation among the heathen just as He had promised He would do.

Jer 9:15-16

15 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.

16 I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them. KJV

My friend, the warning here is “do not trifle with God and do not take lightly His Judgment.” Do not think that He will forget your sins nor be too busy to judge them. Do not think that He will decide to let you slide if you have rejected His Son and His Word. All of that is dangerous.

His Judgment is according to Truth, always. Jesus Christ Himself left a warning to us all.

Matt 10:28

28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. KJV

And, then, the writer of Hebrews reminded us.

Heb 10:31

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. KJV

“...we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth...”