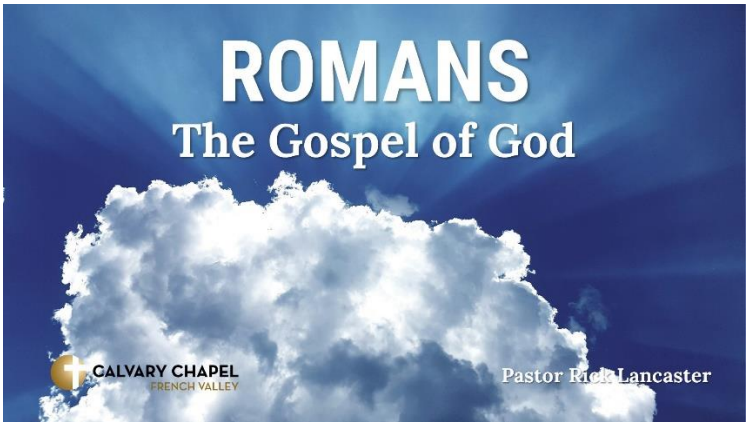

ROMANS

The Gospel of God

The Gospel and Judgment!

Romans 2:1-16

Message #4 of 33 – S1127

Sermon given on November 10, 2024

CALVARY CHAPEL
FRENCH VALLEY

Sunday Morning Service

Pastor Rick Lancaster

The Gospel and Judgment!

Romans 2:1-16

Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Romans 2**
- Today, we continue the series through the letter to the Romans – **The Gospel of God!**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

Teaching

- **The Gospel and Judgment!**
- We were made in the image of God and created to bear God's image out into the world.
- Sin distorts the image of God to the rest of creation and might prevent someone from experiencing God and being saved.
- Not only is God perfect in holiness, grace, and love, He is also perfect in judgment.
- **Romans 2:1**
- Only's God's judgment is perfect.
- The judges in these verses are those people, mostly religious people, who look at those committing the things in the previous chapter and moralize and consider themselves to be better than them.
- Paul was a Jew, and he had grown up believing that the Jews were better than the Gentiles based purely on the having received the Law.

R. Kent Hughes

"Many Jews believed they were immune from God's wrath simply because they were Jews."

- Because the early church was comprised mostly of Jews, this wrong doctrine may have carried over into the Christian church.
- Simply being a part of the church does not save you from God's wrath.
- Only faith in Christ can do that.
- This is a warning against self-righteousness.
- **Romans 2:2**
- God knows what is in the hearts of every human.

- We cannot hide ourselves from Him (**Hebrews 4:12-13**).

12 For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

- Paul continues to challenge those who think they are not as bad as others.
- **Romans 2:3**
- They may not be as bad as others, humanly speaking, but they are still guilty of the same sins.
- One of the sins called out in Romans 1:31 is being unforgiving.
- How many people must you withhold forgiveness from before God finds you guilty of being unforgiving? Just one!
- Guilt is not measured in degrees – simply guilty or not guilty.
- Then there are the sins you don't even know you are guilty of.
- Ignorance of God's laws does not make of guiltless if we break them.
- This is one of the reasons we need Jesus.
- He takes away our guilt for all sins through faith in His shed blood.
- **Romans 2:4**
- Sometimes God uses trials and tribulations to draw people to Himself.
- He also uses kindness, tolerance, and patience.
- Whether life is good or challenging, easy or difficult, blessed or you are struggling to get by, draw near to God and make sure you are right with God.
- God is calling us to Himself in the sunshine and in the storm.
- These verses from King David would make a good prayer (**Psalm 139:23-24**).

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; 24 and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

- God is always calling us higher.
- In verses one to four we saw that God's judgment is perfect because He knows everything in the heart of humans – you cannot fool God.
- In verses five to eleven we will see that God's judgment is impartial.
- **Romans 2:5-6**

- Someday everyone will stand before God and be judged for the works they have done in this life.
- Good works cannot save someone, and evil works will not condemn someone.
- God's Word makes it very clear that faith is the determining factor in salvation (**Ephesians 2:8-10**).

[8] For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, [9] not of works, lest anyone should boast. [10] For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- Notice that Paul puts works after salvation by faith for the believer.
- There is a reward coming to everyone.
- **Romans 2:7**
- This who do good works by faith, God rewards with eternal life.
- **Romans 2:8-9a**
- Those who do not receive God's forgiveness for their sins, their reward is anger, tribulation, anguish, and punishment.
- Paul then describes the impartiality of God's judgment.
- **Romans 2:8b-11**
- When it comes to judgment God is absolutely impartial.
- No group, class, gender, race, nationality, or religion is favored over another.
- Turn to **Matthew 25**.
- A day of judgment will come and the whole world will be divided into two groups – only two.
- Jesus talked about that.
- **Matthew 25:31-34**
- The sheep are God's people who come to Him by faith.
- The second group are those who did not come to God by faith.
- **Matthew 25:41**
- Turn back to **Romans 2**.
- All sheep will be rewarded using the same standard.
- There will be no preferential treatment for one over others.

- Next Paul deals with the objection that some people try to use to justify why they or someone else should be excused from God's judgment.
- **Romans 2:12**
- If someone has never been exposed to the law of God or to the Word of God, God's perfect judgment will be based on how He has chosen to reveal Himself to all humanity through His creation.
- Those who have been exposed to the Word of God will be judged by what was revealed to them in the Word.
- Paul then deals with the religious people who think just knowing God and His Word are enough to get them into heaven.
- **Romans 2:13**
- True faith in God will always result in obedience to God's Word.
- Not perfect obedience, but humbly seeking to align your life with the Word of God.
- James explores that thought in more detail (**James 2:17**).

… faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

- If you say you are a Christ-follower, you should be doing what the Bible says.
- **Romans 2:14-15**
- People who do not believe in God are still guilty before God because He has revealed Himself to them in the creation and God gave them a conscience that tells them that some things are right and others are wrong.
- Every human who has ever lived will stand before God and face a judgment.
- **Romans 2:16**
- As believers, there is one aspect of judgment that we don't need to concern ourselves with.
- If you have truly put your faith in Christ and repented of your sins, you are one of the sheep – one of God's people.
- You will enter God's kingdom and spend eternity with Jesus in heaven.
- We cannot experience eternal punishment for our sins because Jesus took our punishment on the cross.

- Unbelievers will stand before God without that protection.
- Through faith in Christ, we become one of God's children.
- As God's children we enjoy the earthly blessings of that (**Psalm 84:11-12**).

11 For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good *thing* will He withhold from those who walk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, blessed *is* the man who trusts in You!

- God wants to bless us. God can bless us beyond our imagination.
- I think the main message for us today is that God is not done with us yet.
- If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, God is still working on you.
- He is still forming and shaping you into the image of His son.
- What He is doing in us is wonderful.
- We are clay in the hands of Creator God (**Ephesians 2:10 NLT**).

10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

- If you have ever been around an artist while they are working, they see details I never will.
- Kelly is an artist; she is very gifted.
- She likes working with ceramics and has painted some amazing things. What she isn't is fast.
- Every detail must be right, and she will repaint things until it is just right.
- She makes small, subtle changes until she gets it just right, and then she moves on to the next section.
- God is working on us.
- Because He is a perfect judge, He knows what needs to change in our life to make us into the masterpiece He sees us becoming.
- He is not done with us, none of us.
- The last verse said God will judge the secrets of men (and women) in the day of judgment.
- You don't have any secrets with God.
- The way we grow in our faith to become the masterpiece God is making us into is to be absolutely, transparently honest with God and to be brutally honest with ourselves.
- Regularly confess to God that you are not done yet.

- God sees all your secret stuff.
- God is not done with us.
- Bring all your junk to God – He already knows it is in you.
- Confess it before Him, repent of it, and ask Him to forgive you.
- And then let the Holy Spirit work on you.
- The closer we get to being the masterpiece God is working to make us, the more of God we will experience, and better life becomes.
- Let's pray and ask God to help us with that.
- **Pray! Communion! Last Song!**