

Weekend Message: *How to Get Away With It* Romans 2:1-11

Pray each day, before you ***Dive In*** to God's word, that God the Holy Spirit, will be the teacher of your mind and heart. Pray for the ***friends*** in your Life Team to be faithful to study and receive God's truth for themselves today.

Life Team Ice Breaker – (see Last Page)

DAY ONE

In this passage we see the notion of "no excuse" extended to ALL people- Jews and Gentiles alike. That might have been a shock to some Jews in Rome, even as it might be to some who wear the name "Christian," today. Paul did not want anyone to imagine that that God's wrath was only for especially bad sinners. Nor is He willing to share His role as Judge with those who appoint themselves to the position. Any sin is enough to lead any of us to depend on Christ's grace alone for the salvation we NEED. It should also lead us to relinquish our self-appointed positions as judge.

Judgment is a nasty word to many of us. We don't like it from an overwhelmed judge in a traffic court or from a parent who has judged us with undue harshness and left us with a legacy of guilt...the gift that keeps on giving! We needn't hide from God. Better to have a judge who sees all the facts, is able to judge with fairness and who has paid the price to carry our sin on His own back!!

1. Why is it dangerous to judge someone else? (1-4)
2. What is the difference between human judgment and God's judgment?
3. How might God's judgment actually be a kindness? (Vs. 4)
4. Has God withheld the just consequences of any sin you have committed recently? If so, why has He done this? What are you going to do about it?

DAY TWO

5. What are the consequences of not accepting God's kindness? (vs. 5,6)
6. In view of God's judgment, what does it mean that "God does not show favoritism?" (vs. 11)

- What does His refusal to show favoritism have on YOU personally? (considering your current relationship with God and with others)

(Hint: before Freud ever called it "projection" Paul described these moral gymnastics that allow us hang on to our sin and our self-respect at the same time. Pretty convenient...but pretty sick, too!)

7. Jesus and Paul both call us to evaluate the godliness of someone's teaching or behavior (Matt. 7:15-20; II Tim. 2:23-4:5). We are even permitted to rebuke a sinner gently, if necessary (Lu. 17:3-4, Galatians 6:1) with a loving eye to repentance. If this process causes to feel superior, scornful, or self-righteous, what are we supposed to do about it? (Matt. 7:1-5)

DAY THREE

8. What's the "therefore," (vs. 1) there for? How does it connect the truth of 2:1-11 to the truth of 1:18-32?

9. What do you learn about judgment in the following passages Matt 25, John 12:48; Revelation 20:11-15

10. If "there is no favoritism with God" and if we "do the same things" why do you think Christians often tend to avoid "sinners" to the degree that we have very few unchurched friends? Is it hard for you effectively relate the good news to people who commit different sins than you do? Why?

What can you do about that?

DAY FOUR

11. Where in your life do you need God to deal with your attitude toward people you tend to think are not as "good" as you are?

12. Pastor John challenged us this weekend: **WRITE ONE THING THAT YOU WOULD LOVE TO BELIEVE THAT GOD COULD FORGIVE YOU OF TODAY...**

Apply the verse below to one or more of your sins and to the sin of someone in your life that you are having trouble forgiving... someone toward whom you feel judgmental.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9)

DAY FIVE

Bonus Challenge: How do you reconcile vs. 7, "eternal life to those who be patiently doing good seek for glory, honor and immortality;" with the theme of Romans that we are justified by faith alone?

Choose a spiritual discipline (healthy spiritual habit) from the list below (or invent your own) that you want to train yourself to do. A healthy spiritual habit is a behavior that you can practice on a regular basis that will draw you closer to God and cause you to become more like Jesus.

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|---|-------------------------------|
| -Prayer (talking with and listening to God) | -Silence |
| -Fasting (from food, TV, etc.) | -Nature Walk for worship |
| -Life Team participation | -Journalling – writing to God |
| -Corporate Worship (Oasis/weekends) | -Bible Study |
| -Meditation on God's truth | - _____ |

What is something you get upset with others about that you are also guilty of?

- Not using my turn signal. Driving too slowly in the left lane.
- Leaving the "lid" up. Talking during a movie.
- Leaving a mess in the kitchen because they were in a hurry. Saving seats in a crowded auditorium.
- Other _____