

Doctrinal Foundations: Romans

God's Holy and Righteous Judgment against our sin, compared to our "judging of others" who sin (we don't have a leg to stand on) ...

Romans 2:1-16

Therefore *[BECAUSE of what we've been reading in Romans 1:18-32]* 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 [i.e.: "same kinds of things"]. ²But we know that the JUDGMENT of God is ACCORDING TO TRUTH against those who practice such things. ³And 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? ⁴Or do you DESPISE the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? ⁵But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up ('storing up' or 'accumulating') for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶who "will render to each one according to his deeds": ⁷eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; ⁸but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness — indignation and wrath, ⁹tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; ¹⁰but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹For there is no partiality with God.

¹²For 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 justified in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; ¹⁴for 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 unto themselves, ¹⁵who show (i.e.: display) the WORK of THE LAW WRITTEN IN THEIR HEARTS, their CONSCIENCE also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) ¹⁶in the DAY when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

What can we learn from God (via the apostle Paul) after seeing the horrible decline of humanity in Romans 1:18-32 ... 4 stages of increasing corruption of sin to the point of no return?

1. Therefore *[BECAUSE of what we've been reading in Romans 1:18-32]* 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 ["same kinds of things"].

We are NOT the righteous and holy judge, **GOD is** . We cannot be living in sin, living a life that is separated from God and then come along and see other folks doing certain kinds of sins, that you think are "wrong" and "condemn" them as if you are righteous. God says to such a person: "who do you think you are?" How can you condemn a person to hell, when you are on the way to hell, yourself?

2. **FYI:** Paul is using a “fake person” → “O man” “whoever you are who judges...” He is arguing with a “fake person” ... similar to **Role Playing** ... which gives us an example of a person who might argue against what Paul has taught us so far, what we’ve read in Romans 1:16-32 → the Gospel, God’s Righteousness Revealed In Christ Jesus and His finished work of redemption ... and the 4 stages of Progressive, Increasing Sinful Corruption of any society that is unrepentant, **rejects** God and His Revelation (in nature and in His Word), and **continues** going along with sin. “O man” – Paul is using a literary device to help the reader understand certain “points” in an argument or a premise, etc. Paul uses this device to help us understand how crazy it is for sinners to judge other sinners to hell (full condemnation).

3. **The Accumulation of Wrath** ... being stored for the DAY of Judgment, the Day of God’s Wrath ... Romans 2:2-11
When unrepentant sinners (people who are **not** saved, people who are **not** genuinely born again) sin, each sin they commit, adds exponentially to their long sinful records ... God records every sin, all sins are recorded from birth until death ... unless a person becomes **born again in Christ Jesus** our Lord and Savior. They **REJECT** God’s Goodness and Love that would lead them to repentance.

Romans 2:8-9 → 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

Notice how sinners, even those with “some remaining morals” are “**self-seeking**” and don’t obey the TRUTH... they will suffer the consequences.

All Sinners will be Judged according to **TRUTH** (remember who those in Romans 1:18 “**suppressed the TRUTH** in unrighteousness”?) God will judge using the **full Reality** of the TRUTH of each and every sinful act committed ... or sins of omission (when you should’ve done something but didn’t). All the motives (the reasons behind them, the excuses given, etc...) are all recorded and will be “**Played Back**” at your **TRIAL** before God at the Great White Throne Judgment (see Revelation 20:11-15) ... God will judge every lost sinner according to their deeds, their sinful works.

Revelation 20:11-15 -- Then I saw a **Great White Throne** and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and **books were opened**. And another book was opened, which is the **Book of Life**. And the dead were **judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books**. ¹³The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴Then Death and Hades were cast into the **Lake of Fire**. This is the **second death**. ¹⁵And anyone not found written in the **Book of Life** was cast into the **Lake of Fire**.

4. **The MORAL Sinner [the moralist] ... the Gentile, Moral Sinner (the non-Jewish pagan or atheist, pantheist, animist, agnostic, etc...) ... who has some morals ... may have some moral boundaries. His “deeds” or “decision making” show that God’s Law is written on his heart ... his conscience either accusing or excusing him.** There were many in Paul’s time that were like this. There are many like this around us today. They may be the nicest people, kind, moral, etc. but are very far from God. They are not saved, not born again and would be enemies of God in their hearts and minds (they would argue with God and even “judge God” if they had a chance, etc.) Yet, for some weird reason they hold to some moral framework, logical thinking, and are generally nice people (unless you bring up “religion” or things like that, etc.)

Moral sinners might think that certain folks are who engage in alternative lifestyle behaviors are wrong and bad for society. Or they might think that murder is evil, adultery is bad and immoral, etc. But secretly, they do other kinds of sinful behaviors, sinful choices, selfish self-centered things in life that God is not pleased with. They might excuse those kinds of things in their own lives but Judge others, because what others are doing are much “worse” than their sins. They might say “at least I am not robbing banks or murdering people”. (I might say, “I am glad you aren’t, as well”) But, they still does not excuse them from any other sins they may have committed in their lives. They are moralists, but variable moralists ... it depends if people are judging them personally, as opposed to the moralists judging others.

We are born with some sense of morality, especially an acute sense of “fairness”. When we hear children say, “mom, that isn’t fair...” we did not teach them this ... this sense is built into us from conception. We have a sense of “justice” and “fairness” ... but sin corrupts that and it becomes selfish and self-serving fairness. It is only “not fair” when it is against us. But when we are not fair to someone else, it is their fault (ha).

5. **Conscience → con = with science = knowledge ... → with knowledge.** Thus, Conscience is “with knowledge” as a “mini-judge” that has some basis to “judge” or to discern thoughts, intentions, and possible actions and choices, etc. Whenever we think about doing something ... we do it **with knowledge**. We either listen to our conscience or we ignore it. If our conscience is “innocent” it can be a better “judge” to listen to. If our conscience has been corrupted, hardened, or seared ... it can be a faulty “judge” to follow. In some cases a person’s conscience can be something **NOT** to listen to.

We are all born with a Conscience - an area connected with our heart and mind that is like a little “judge” of what is “right” and what is “wrong”. It is very, very basic at birth. It is fed and built up based upon our “up bringing” – how we are raised. Our environment, family life, culture, etc... can affect our conscience. The sinner’s conscience can be so corrupted that it can be considered to be “seared as with a hot iron” (1 Timothy 4:1-2). It can be so hardened as to be **irreparable** in some cases. When a person is Born Again in Christ, his/her conscience can become fully clean and can be fed with God’s Holy Word and Empowered by God’s Spirit so that it can become something to listen to when deciding on doing something that be Good or Bad, etc.

The fact we were Created in the IMAGE of GOD is the ONLY Reason we have a Conscience in the First Place.

Why would we have a Conscience if we are just evolved by accident from slime ... if there is no God to answer to?

6. We cannot Earn Eternal Life by doing Good... Although it sounds like Paul is saying that a person who does Good will inherit Eternal Life ... Paul is not saying what we think he is saying here.

Romans 2:7 - eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality

Romans 2:10 - but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good

Paul is using a “compare – contrast” literary device ... to show contrast of values or that something is very different, etc. Paul was showing how utterly sinful the Moral Sinner was ... as a contrast, just in case, if a person were somehow able to be perfectly perfect from birth to death, that person is used (a fake person is used...)

In this case, if a person can be perfectly perfect from birth to death, like Jesus Christ was, “by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality” that person can EARN the right to have Eternal Life. OK, so try it ... see how long that works. Oh, wait a minute... have you ever sinned, at least once in your life, even a little sin? See **James 2:10** → For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

He will talk about this as we get further into chapter 2 & 3 ... we are sinners to the core (outside of Christ) with no hope of redemption, no hope of rescue without Christ.

They are still sinners ... even if they don't commit blatantly, outwardly rebellious sins against God in public (as we read about in Romans 1:18-32) ... and even if those Moral sinners disapprove of those sinful acts of public rebellion ... that doesn't help the case for the Sinful Moralists ... he / she is still in Sin and need of a Savior ... Judgment is coming.