

Romans 2:1-11

Wednesday Grow Encourage Learn Group

Tonight's section of the Book of Romans is a jigsaw piece of chapters 2 and 3. It is important to hold this in tension as we work through these chapters because there is good news in Chapter 3:24. Have you ever experienced a reality check in life? It may have come from some unforeseen circumstance or, most probably, some form of relationship with someone. Learning lessons in life can be hard to swallow at times. The language Paul uses here at the start of chapter 2 is more like a reality check or a learning lesson for the particular group to whom he was writing.

Last week, we read in Romans 1:21-32 how Gentiles have suppressed the truth that God has revealed to them in nature, and that therefore they have no excuse before Him. Here, in chapter 2, Paul now begins to show that the Jews of that day also suppressed the truth God had given to them and that they, too, are without excuse.

The main learning lesson here in this passage is that God assesses and judges all people on the same basis.

Let's recap from last week and read Romans 1:18-32, and then read for tonight's study ch. 2:1-11.

1. Were the Jews of that day just as 'without excuse' as the Gentiles in suppressing the truth? (1:18-32)
2. Were the Jews of that day just as guilty of committing the sins of 1:29-31?
3. What were the other examples Paul referred to in Chapter 2:1-4?
4. Are there instances in the history of the church where truth has been suppressed?
5. Are there instances nowadays where truth has been suppressed?
6. In view of these verses, how does judging others rebound?

7. Paul is critical of the Jews in verses 1-4. Without denying the Jews' special favour, he criticises them for showing contempt for God's goodness towards them (verse 4). What was God's goodness and kindness intended to lead them to?
8. What has it led to in verse 5?
9. Does God then show any partiality (verse 6)? Can a Jew, simply by virtue of being a Jew, claim immunity from Judgement?
10. How do we then, by persistence in doing good, seek glory, honour and immortality? Does this mean we do good works (verse 7)? Are there other supporting parts of Scripture for this?
11. This **doing what is good** is a result of new life in Christ. Real faith generates good works in a believer's life. To **persist** in this is a characteristic of the growing and progressing Christian (see Luke 8:15; Hebrews 12:1; James 1:2-3). Again, Paul is emphasizing God's impartial treatment of all people (Ephesians 2:8-10).
12. What are the opposite actions that people may seek in verses 8-9? Why has this occurred?
13. Have you ever met a self-seeking person who is actually satisfied in life? Have you ever met someone who has embraced God's grace and believes in the good news of Jesus Christ? What are the differences?
14. In discussing this, we can see that religious heritage does not provide salvation. We cannot rely on, or boast of, our attendance at church either. Sin has created a moral chasm between God and us over which no one can leap. How has the gospel given us a way to the other side?
15. Discuss how salvation is given to individuals on the basis of personal faith in Jesus Christ.