



**MARCH 24, 2025**

***The Lesson: Romans 2:1-11***

**Key Verse: Romans 2:1**

Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgement on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things.

***The Devotion:***

Paul's letter was directed primarily at Jews who were thinking they were superior to the Gentiles in their community. The Jews were very proud of the way they were keeping the law and had no problem pointing out all the 'bad' behavior the Gentiles were doing. There was a feeling that because they were Jews, they had a direct line to God and were inherently better.

Paul tells them plainly that there are no excuses for them commenting on the 'bad' activities of the Gentiles or judging them. He states by doing so, their actions are viewed by God as also 'bad' activities or sins. They simply need to change their behavior. He tells them that everyone who lives in stubbornness and with an unrepentant heart is storing up the wrath of God. This had to be a tough message for the Jews to hear, as they felt were doing everything that they thought God wanted.

Two thousand years later, it is easy to for us to say that the Jews to whom Paul was writing to were any worse than we are sometimes. We are all sinful people and make mistakes. How often on the highway do we comment that people who drive slower than we do endanger us and those who drive faster than we do are a menace on the road. Rationalizing this sin of judgement does not change the fact that it is still a sin. As a sin, it will bring God's judgement on us as well.

Paul describes in graphic terms that the wrath of God will be revealed to those who choose sin and do not turn to Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. He notes that no sin will escape the wrath of God. By telling them that a sinner who rejects Christ will suffer eternal condemnation, he is trying shock them into being aware of their sin of judgement.

As we grapple with the sin of judgement, it is important to remember that what Paul is asking is not for us to suspend our critical faculties or stop speaking about injustice. Of course we must stop standing in judgement of others and condemning them. We must speak the truth and if possible point people to the Gospel, pray for them and help them see God's righteousness is there for everyone.

May God's blessing be on all of us sinful creatures as we journey through this life. As a very wise person reminded us often, being a child of God is not easy. However, as we do what we know is right and ask for forgiveness when we make a mistake, God will surely be pleased.

***The Prayer:***

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us a strong messenger in Paul and work with us to follow his example. Help us recognize when we fall into the temptation of judging others. Help us speak the truth and keep us reminded that everyone is a child of God. In Jesus's name we pray, Amen.

**BY SAM REICHERT**