

Series through Romans: TRUTH: UNASHAMED, PART I

Sermon Title: Week 3, No Excuse!

Principal Scripture: Romans 2:1-16

Date: June 17, 2018

- **Week 3 of our first section of Romans! If you've missed, PODCAST... also, STUDY GUIDE. BIBLE.**
- **LAST SUNDAY, Paul started making his case for the Gospel- he did so with the first of multiple essential WORLDVIEW concepts- the REASON WE NEED THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL- reality of humanities rebellion against God that the bible calls SIN.**
- **NOW, having made that case, Paul takes the next necessary step, the worldview concept that is perhaps the hardest for us to honestly deal with....**

† **WORLDVIEW:** In light of the diagnosis of our sin (Romans 1), all humanity will face God's **JUDGMENT.**

- **We don't like to hear this, because we don't like the thought of being held accountable for our thoughts and actions. BUT CHURCH- HEAR! It is an absolute clear teaching of scripture that every human- each one of us, will stand before God to give an account for our lives.**

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

- **Church- it is no wonder that this doesn't get talked about a lot, for it is a terrifying thought. BUT WE MUST HEAR THE ENTIRE STORY! In making this case, Paul is heading toward the GOOD NEWS of SALVATION BY FAITH, but to get there, we must face the reality of where we are apart from God and His Grace.**
- **AND SO... FIRST BIG THOUGHT- faced with prospect of giving an account for my own life to God- what is one of our first tendencies? Try to justify ourselves by JUDGING SOMEONE ELSE! Listen God! You've got the wrong guy... look what THAT GUY is doing!**
- **IN RESPONSE, God's word that we MUST hear...**

Romans 2:1 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

- **This is so important...**
- **Confronted with the diagnosis of our sin, there is no place for us to JUDGE others.**
- **Doesn't mean that we embrace all behavior as being morally equivalent. That road leads to moral and emotional anarchy... leads to pain and suffering.**
- **WHAT IT DOES MEAN- we NEVER have grounds to give a pass to our own sin issues by comparing ourselves to others. Doesn't work. As FOLLOWER of Christ who God desires to GROW, my chief concern is NOT how God needs to teach, or convict, someone else. IT IS HOW HE IS growing ME. MY obedience to HIM. IT IS TRAGIC how much emotional and spiritual immaturity we allow to persist in our own lives by hiding behind a sense of moral superiority over others.**

- **God's judgment is JUST. (verse 2)**

² Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things (**SIN**) is based on truth. ³ So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?

- **Simply put, God's judgment, and his right to judge, is not arbitrary. It is based on truth of WHO HE IS- his Holiness, perfect goodness- and WHO WE ARE, as fallen creatures who have turned from him.**

- **Our selfish hearts try to convince us that God has no right to hold us accountable- but HE does my friends. HE is good, full of truth, grace and mercy- AND HE IS GOD.**
- **See this in the heart cry of King David, 1000 years before time of Christ, as he wrestled with his sin...**

Psalm 51:3-4 *For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.*

- **GOD IS GOD! He is GOOD, and He is JUST. We are his creation, it is his right to hold us accountable**
- **BIT HEAR! God's great desire is not to crush us with his judgment. God is not mean spirited, vindictive. He LOVES US, and...**

- **God's great desire is for all to come to REPENTANCE.**

⁴ *Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?*

- **When we have judgmental attitudes toward other people, when we take try to justify ourselves by elevating ourselves over them, or think less of them and find joy in their suffering of consequences... we are showing contempt for God's kindness. God's desire is for us- and everyone- to change, to grow, to be set free from bondage of sin. We have no place to wish God's judgement on others while thinking we are above it ourselves.**
- **THINGS ABOUT TO GET REAL- REMINDER OF CONTEXT. Church in Rome had Jews and Gentiles. Jews, because they had "The Law", tempting for them to view themselves as exempt from God's judgment, and to think that God's wrath was reserved for the Gentiles. ON OTHER HAND, you had 'moral gentiles' who would look at pagan culture around them, and also think God's wrath was for everyone else... This leads us to difficult passage!**

† **The Day of God's Wrath (2:5-16)**

⁵ *But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ God "will repay each person according to what they have done."* ⁷ *To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. ⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. ⁹ There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; ¹⁰ but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹¹ For God does not show favoritism.*

¹² *All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³ For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, **but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.** (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) ¹⁶ This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.*

- **If we take by itself, it can sound like eternal life, our salvation, is a matter of our works, how well we live. But this would go against the great message of the entire letter, which is the Grace of God bringing salvation through FAITH. What we MUST do is see the big ideas here, and then very importantly, see this in the context of the entire first part of Romans. FIRST- the big ideas**

- **We will be judged based upon what we have DONE.**

⁶ *God "will repay each person according to what they have done."* 11... *God does not show favoritism*

- God doesn't play favorites, he sees all people, Jew and Gentiles, the same. **ALL OF US will be accountable for our lives.**
- You can see Paul here walking through the objections of both the Jews and Gentiles. The Jews say "We won't be judged, because we have the law".
 - God's judgment won't evaluate our knowledge of what is right, but our **OBEDIENCE** to what is right. ...¹²all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.
- **You have the law? YOU DON'T KEEP IT!**
- The gentiles say "We can't be judged, because we **DIDN'T** have the law. **THIS** doesn't work either...
- God's 'law' is not limited to what is written, God has placed it in our **NATURE**.
- **The requirements of God's law- his goodness- are written on our hearts, common to all humanity, and our own consciences testify to it.**
- **AND SO... Paul concludes, we will one day stand before God, and the secrets of our hearts will be revealed. WHAT HAPPENS THEN?**

✠ What is the result of God's judgment? **Here is context**

– **Context of 3:10-18. Vs 7 above...**

⁷To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

– **WHO DOES THIS?**

"There is no one righteous, not even one... there is no one who does good, not even one. **NO-ONE!**

– **Then, in verse 2:8- Those who reject truth, follow evil, there will be wrath and evil... WHO DOES THIS?**

All have turned away... they have together become worthless... There is no fear of God before their eyes **EVERYONE.**

– **ONLY ONE CONCLUSION.** When we stand before God, it is our **WORKS** that will be evaluated. If our **WORKS- our own relative goodness- is all that we have, then we will stand condemned.**

– **BUT FRIENDS! THIS IS WHERE THE GOSPEL RINGS OUT IN HOPE! Because our SALVATION IS NOT BY OUR WORKS, IT IS BY FAITH IN CHRIST.**

– **WHEN ETHAN stands before God to give an account of my life, which I will, there will be so much that fall short. Most of my life. THERE WILL ALSO BE some works that resulted from my trust of God, when I let the holy spirit lead me and I acted in obedience to God's goodness working through me... those works, somehow, God will credit to me and they will carry forward into eternity. BUT all that was not of God, that was only of me, it will be found for what it is- of no worth, and it will be cast away.**

– **AND THEN, as I kneel there in the dust of my own failures, RATHER THAN CONDEMNING ME AND CASTING ME OUT, He will raise me to my feet, and say... ETHAN! YOU ARE MY CHILD, AND YOU ARE HOLY AND DEARLY LOVED! FOR YOU WERE CRUCIFIED WITH MY SON, JESUS CHRIST, AND HIS LIFE IS IN YOU, AND IN CHRIST, THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION! THEREFORE, BECAUSE OF YOUR FAITH, MY RIGHTEOUSNESS HAS BECOME YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, MY LIFE HAS BECOME YOUR LIFE, AND MY HOME IS NOW YOUR HOME. ENTER INTO YOUR INHERITANCE.**

– **And as I step into eternity, I wonder if on my lips will be the promise we see in 1 Cor 15...**

O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law is what gave sin its power. But thank you my God! YOU HAVE GIVEN ME victory over sin and death through my Lord Jesus Christ.

† SO... what do we do with this?

- How we live MATTERS.

- ***Our choices, our actions, how we impact other people- this matters intensely. Our lives matter so much that we will be required to give an account to God of how we were stewards of this life He entrusted to us.***
- ***AND, when in my life- your life- we have lived trusting and being obedient to God through His Spirit, His life within us, and because of this we have lived with INTEGRITY, COURAGE, HONOR, and we have lived in relationship to others with SACRIFICIAL LOVE, COMPASSION, KINDNESS, PATIENCE... These works will be rewarded... MORE ON THIS..***
- ***On our own, we will always FALL SHORT***
- ***BUT- Here is where the glory of the gospel shines through. As a follower of Jesus, rather than God's Judgment being a source of great fear, it is a source of great HOPE. BECAUSE In Christ, We are FORGIVEN. IN CHRIST, God's Mercy will triumph over His Judgement, and my sin will be swallowed up in His grace.***
- ***BECAUSE THEN we are dependent God's Grace...***

This Truth must lead us to be people who LOVE, not people who JUDGE