



7/14/25

I just have to share... my sweet little grandson, Ollie, turned 3 years old yesterday. It was so sweet to see his excitement over his special day. He had a vibrant joy the whole day. I hope and pray you get to capture some joy like that today... because "This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us reJOYce and be glad in it!" (Psalm 118:24)

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Romans 2:1-11

At the end of Romans 1, Paul spoke to the hearts of those who completely reject God by giving in to their selfish passions. Now, at the beginning of Romans, he speaks to the hearts of those who reject God by arrogantly judging those who give in to their selfish passions, as though their "legalism" makes them superior. Ultimately, no one is superior to another, and no "good deed" has any value if it is not motivated by faith in Christ.

Vs. 1 ~ "Therefore... because you are just as guilty as everyone else... you who judge are without excuse." The original Greek says, "You are inexcusable." The fact is, ALL of us are inexcusable based on our own works... because anything that is not motivated from faith in Jesus is done for self and is self seeking." None of us have the right to pass judgment on someone else, regardless of their sin... because we are guilty of the same things they are.

Just to be clear... This does not mean that we enable sin. But... first, we as believers can't expect unbelievers to act like believers. We can't act as though we're superior to them either, because the only difference between them and us is that we have put our faith in Christ and they haven't... yet. Also... even as a believer, when we call other believers out for their sin... we are not to do it in a spirit of judgment, but of care. We lovingly and gently confront sin in someone else because we love them and want to see them live in freedom from the sin... not because we're sick and tired of them and want to condemn them.

The truth is, no matter how horrific someone else's sin is, in some way, I have been guilty of

doing the same thing against God. Is someone an adulterer? I have cheated on God. Is someone else filled with bitterness? I have been bitter against God. I have no right to pass judgment on anyone else, giving a verdict of "guilty." We are all guilty before Jesus. When we pass judgment on others, we bring the same condemnation on ourselves.

Vs. 2 ~ The only one who has the right to judge is the one who has done no wrong... ever. Just like when Jesus said to the men holding stones, ready to take the life of a woman caught in adultery... "Let he that is without sin cast the first stone." The only one who had the right to cast the stone was Jesus, and instead He became the redeemer of the sin. The would be stone throwers were not confronting sin because they cared for the wellbeing of the woman, they were getting ready to stone her in condemnation.

Vs. 3-4 ~ No one is exempt from the judgment we deserve. If I am not being condemned, it is not because I am innocent, but because God has a treasury full of His kindness, forbearance, and patience. He is abundant in gentleness toward me, though I have been harsh. He is abundant in bearing with me, though I have pushed Him beyond the limits with my disobedience. He is abundant in patience and long suffering for me, because He knows I would have no hope if He wasn't. All this abundant kindness is for a purpose... to lead me to repentance... agreeing with Him that my sin is wrong, asking for forgiveness, and turning from the sin. He is not kind toward me to give me permission to keep sinning, but so that I will confess the sin and turn away from it.

If God is so kind toward me, shouldn't I follow in His footsteps and offer that same kindness, forbearance, and patience toward others rather than condemning them for doing the very things that I've done against God?

Vs. 5 ~ Refusal to repent for indulging in selfish desires as well as indulging in legalism for the sake of one's own superior mindset are both reasons to store up wrath for oneself on the day of judgment. Neither the person who lives for selfish pleasures or the person who lives for self glory will experience the reward God wants to give... because neither is motivated by faith... "And without faith it is impossible to please Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Vs. 6-11 ~ On the day of judgment, God will render to all people according to their works. Wait. Does this mean salvation is based on works? No... but the works give evidence of what I am basing my salvation in. Only the works done in faith in Jesus Christ will be rewarded.

The actions of those who put their faith in Christ will be...

- *Patience in doing good for the Lord... Patience, endurance, perseverance... because doing good from a heart of faith when circumstances are difficult takes perseverance. Those who are doing good for the wrong reasons will give up when times are hard.*

- *They will seek glory, honor, and eternal life that are only found in Jesus... and they will receive the reward of eternal life with Him. I know this is about God's honor and glory because those who don't love God will be SELF seeking, not GOD seeking.*

The reward for those who love Jesus will be glory, honor, and peace... though they won't be seeking it. In Luke 9:24 Jesus said, "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it." It's amazing. God wants to give me glory, honor, and peace. I don't have to seek it for myself. As I honor Him, He blesses me with it.

But the one who seeks glory and honor for himself will lose his life. He will face wrath and fury from God because he refused to obey the truth, and he chose to obey unrighteousness. He will experience tribulation and distress. This is a big deal. As a believer in Jesus, I face tribulation and distress in this world... but it's temporary. For the one who seeks SELF and not God, the tribulation and distress are forever.

So let me not think that God is a pushover. He is being so kind and forbearing and patient now... to give us all a chance to repent, turn from our sin, and turn to Him. But the time will come when His wrath will come on all who reject Him... whether they are Jew or Greek. All people will be judged based on their faith. Those who have no faith in Christ will be judged for their works... and Galatians 3:10-11 says, "For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, 'Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.' Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for 'The righteous shall live by faith.'" Works don't save.

Those who put their faith in Jesus will be judged by the righteousness of Jesus. Galatians 3:13-14 says, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree'— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through FAITH."

This is why I have no right to pass judgment and condemn anyone else as though I were completely innocent. I need a Savior just as much as everyone else does. Learning to live with this understanding is such a huge job for me! I realize in one moment that I have no right to judge someone else, and the next moment I'm totally distracted because... "Don't they understand how wrong they are for what they just said?" O Lord, please teach me to see You

as the Righteous Judge, and help me to stop trying to take Your job. You don't need my help. There's so much freedom in not trying to be superior.

Vs. 11 ~ "You show no partiality." Lord, I have not believed this. I have thought that You have Your favorites, and I am not one of them. But there is no second place at the foot of the cross. It doesn't matter what ethnicity I have, what skills I have, or what status I have. You do not treat one as more valuable than the other. ALL who are Yours are Yours by faith.

I pray that I will live in the security of knowing that I belong to You, so I will not seek glory for myself and I will not sit in judgment on others... but I will treat others with kindness, forbearance, and patience... as You have done with me. May it be so.