

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Who is Qualified to Judge?
Romans 2:1-11

Last time...what God has revealed to fallen mankind in desperate need of redemption

- Himself
- His righteousness
- the unrighteousness of man

and what God has yet to reveal

- His wrath

1 Sam 2:30b them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall
be lightly esteemed (despised, cursed)

Every person has been given a revelation of God

- conscience...the awareness of God, His moral code
- creation
- the Word of God

as is accountable for it...no more, no less

ex. touching the Ark of the covenant, given only to the Levites

- carried by the Philistines –
no harm for not given that revelation
- looked inside by the people of Bethshemesh –
death for were given that revelation
- touched by Uriah –
death because was given that revelation

So rendering “toothless” is the objection to the Gospel:
“What about the natives in New Guinea?”

No one has an excuse for not knowing God is
Every unbeliever is without excuse (Ch 1:20)

We considered some of the horrific things we see in these Days of Noah and Days of Lot
And were perhaps stunned to learn that God gives up, even before a person's last breath

This time...how we should react to the “horrors” of Ch 1:21-32
We are in Rom 2

v1

Therefore...Ch 1:32

How many of us did the same things and had pleasure in so doing?

How many of us still watch and enjoy TV shows or movies that display any of
v29-31 for viewers entertainment?

All of us

Therefore, it is indefensible for any of us to judge anyone still dead in their sins and
committing “horrors” against God in Ch 1:21-31...
just as we did and just as we are so entertained

How should we react to the “horrors” of Ch 1:21-32?

With blind self-righteous indignation and condemnation...like a Pharisee?

Or like the publican who knows he is a sinner in need of mercy?

Matt 5:20

Luke 18:9-14 And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves
that they were righteous, and despised others: *Two men went up
into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a
publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I
thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust,
adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give
tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off,
would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon
his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this
man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other: for
every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that
humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

Are all the things spoken of in Ch 1:21-32 horrific?

Do those things describe the lost who are dead in their sin?

Do those things describe the born-again children of God BEFORE they born of
the Spirit?

Are any believers here forgiven murderers?

Matt 5:21-22 *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou
shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of
the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry
with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the
judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca,
shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say,
Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.*

Are any believers here forgiven adulterers (or any other sexual sin)?

Matt 5:27-28 *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*

Are any here guiltless regarding the Spirit of the Law, God's revelation of Holiness as Jesus taught on SoM?

Were any here in their right mind before voluntarily confessing our sin and bending our knee and professing with our tongue the Lordship of Jesus Christ (believing the revelation of God given to us)?

Remember John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

We were condemned before we accepted the righteousness of God, the Gospel of Christ

By condemning sinners, we condemn ourselves...for we were no different
"There but by the grace of God go I."

Yet we are different now, because we by grace thru faith have been made different

God

Ps 103:8-11 The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep *his anger* for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

Matt 19:17 ...there is none good but one, God.

1 John 4:8 God is love (*agape*)

offered us His grace before giving us His judgment;
we accepted His offer, made the rational choice
and He made us righteous (2 Cor 5:21), new creatures in Christ (2 Cor 5:17)

And sent as the witnesses of Jesus Christ to continue His work (Acts 1:8)...

2 Cor 5:19-20 God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

we give as freely as we received (Matt 10:8)

- grace
- mercy (Matt 5:7)
- forgiveness

In a “horrifying” world (Ch 1:21-31), we are given the ministry of reconciliation,
NOT the ministry of condemnation

Luke 6:37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall
not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

v2 One thing we are sure of, one thing we know:

 The judgment of God for the “habitual practice” of Ch 1:21-32...

 “do” in Ch 1:32, Ch 2:1, and Ch 2:3

 “commit” in Ch 2:2

 means “habitually practice”

 know it is wrong but refuse to repent

 is according to Truth

 John 14:6

 John 1:1

 John 17:17

 Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now
commandeth all men every where to repent:
(still to this day when Gospel of Christ is preached!)

 Acts 17:31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge
the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath
ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in
that he hath raised him from the dead.
(the revelation of the wrath of God...yet future)

The judgment of man is flawed – sin nature and knows nothing until he knows God
The judgment of God is true – He is perfect and All-knowing

 Rev 16:7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God
Almighty, true and righteous *are* thy judgments.

Therefore...

v3 Should anyone in their right mind (the mind of Christ at the feet of Christ) think they can

 1. judge those of Ch 1:21-32

 2. do the very same things (in the eyes of God)

 3. escape the judgment of God?

NO!

Matt 7:1-5 Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam *is* in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Forgiven sinners are not qualified to judge unforgiven sinners
We are qualified to declare the Way to forgiveness
We hate the sin but love the sinner by sharing the righteousness of God,
the Gospel of Christ, with them

v4 But for those who are not in their right mind and stand in blind self-righteous judgment of those in Ch 1:21-32, the Holy Spirit asks penetrating questions:

Do you despise the riches (true, everlasting, unquantifiable) of God's

- goodness...kindness
- forbearance...Self-restraint – calm and measured vs “lightning bolts”
i.e. “flying off the handle” and dispensing “instant judgment”
Note: which is misunderstood by a corrupt mind as Him not seeing or not caring
- longsuffering...patience

Are you ignorant that it is the sweet goodness/grace/kindness of God...
not the horrifying judgment of God...
that leads sinners to repentance?

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

As ambassadors of Christ, our message is the King's and not ours

Ch 1:16-17

1 Cor 15:3-4

John 3:16

Love: God's “calling card”

We are to pass it out freely and liberally, NOT judgment

I was drawn to Jesus Christ by the love of God for me personally
I had run from the God, taught that He was angry with me personally
and His judgment (burning for my sins) was awaiting
When I was told the truth...God's "calling card" is love...
I wrestled with Jesus because I could not understand why He
would love me personally
I knew I was a horrible sinner and I wanted forgiveness above all else,
but I could not believe God loved me personally...until I saw the
love of God for me personally in His children around me

So this amazing, life-changing-when-received/believed goodness of God is for whom?
Those still in Ch 1:21-32
2 Peter 3:9

God fights **for** His beloved creature...with goodness, kindness, grace, love, and
His righteousness (the Gospel of Christ)

On this Palm Sunday, we remember

Luke 19:41-44 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over
it, Saying, *If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day,
the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from
thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies
shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep
thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and
thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone
upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.*

In the Hebrew Scriptures, when God "visited" a people, it was for their sins
i.e. to judge their sins – a time of judgment

So, overlooking Jerusalem, why was Jesus weeping?

Because He had come to visit their sins...by bearing their sins!

Grace (Him bearing and forgiving), not judgment (them bearing)

And bear not just theirs but the sins of the whole world

(1 John 2:2)...ours!

John 12:47 (after His weeping Triumphal Entry on Palm Sunday)

*And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge
him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the
world.*

But due to unbelief, the Jews to whom He was sent failed to see that
Unbelief in a person's heart grieves the heart of God

- v5-6 Still to those not in their right mind and self-righteously judging other sinners AND those not believing the Gospel of Christ (the revelation of God given them):
- have a callous and stubborn nature
 - have themselves an unrepentant heart
 - are storing up wrath appointed to them when the righteous judgment of God is revealed

The judgment of God is true (v2) and righteous

Rev 16:7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous *are* thy judgments.

God fights **for** those who believe Him, He fights **against** those who don't believe Him

Therefore, the holy and just God...who is always fair and always does the right thing... will give a "reward" to every person, in accordance with their deeds/toil of either indulging self or denying self

Matt 16:24 *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

Gal 6:7-8 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Rev 22:12 *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

What are those "rewards"?

- v7 For those who believe/love/obey the Lord ("well doing", Gen 4:7)
by cheerful endurance as a stranger and pilgrim in a place not their home
seek His presence (glory, honor, immortality) rather than the pleasures of this world: eternal life

Final destination: heaven as citizens of the Kingdom of God

- v8-9 But for those who are contentious with their Maker and do not believe/love/obey Him and His Word (Truth), choosing instead unrighteousness (either loving wickedness or relying on their self-righteousness):
- indignation
 - wrath
 - tribulation
 - anguish/calamity/distress

That to every such soul, without exception and without excuse
To the Jew first and then the Gentile, just as the Gospel of Christ/righteousness of God

Final destination: hell

- a place of torment meant for the fallen angels, where the fire is never quenched
- outer darkness (Lake of Fire), where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth

A false doctrine in the Church: There is no hell
That is calling Jesus Christ a liar

v10 Coming back to the obedient, the children of God that work good (Gen 15:6, Heb 11:6):

- glory
- honor
- peace

in the presence of God for all eternity

To every such soul that “works out what God has worked in”

Phil 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes
The Spirit of God indwells everyone who believes
The work (event) of salvation accomplished, the Holy Spirit begins the work (process) of sanctification...”Not my will be done but Your will be done.”

That is our toil, a hard work, because the flesh does not like to be denied
But God (the Holy Spirit) has begun a good work in us: we are both willing and empowered to do God’s pleasure...when we walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh – working out what He has worked in

To the Jew first and then the Gentile, just as the Gospel of Christ/righteousness of God

v11 God does not play favorites, He is the God of the Jew and the God of the Gentiles
Rom 3:29
Acts 10:25-43

Application/Exhortation

We do not always walk in the Spirit and not in the flesh (an internal civil war rages daily)

Gal 5:16-17 I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

When we “flesh out” and sin (Ch 1:29-32), we often feel condemned, hearing the devil’s loud voice of condemnation

Jesus does not condemn

Rom 8:1-2 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

The Holy Spirit convicts of sin and brings into our remembrance

Ps 103:13 Like as a father pitieth *his* children, *so* the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

Matt 26:41b *the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

John 13:10 *He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit* (completely, altogether)

Acts 10:15 What God hath cleansed, *that* call not thou common

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 2:1-2 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

Be grieved by the sin and confess (come clean) and repent (be cleansed), but do not feel condemned

And since none of us are “above” sinning (we have not arrived!), let us not stand in blind self-righteous judgment (Matt 5:20) of those who are still dead-in-sin... Ch 1:21-32 as we once were

God is not done working

- salvation in the world!
- sanctification in us!

Be a part of what God is doing, in you and thru you