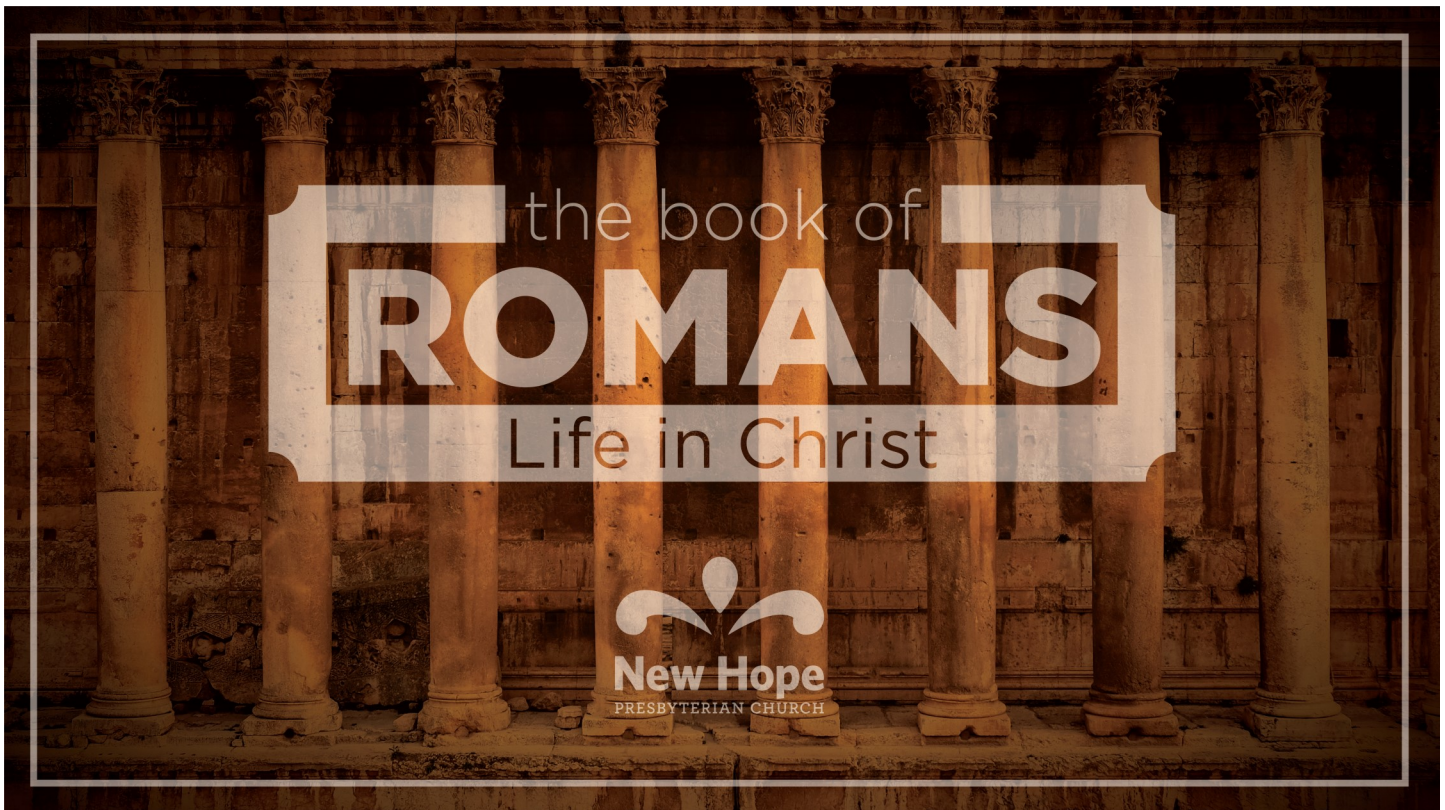




Romans: Life in Christ Study Guide (Week 4)

No Excuse

August 29, 2021

Romans 2:1-16

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. 2You say, 'We know that God's judgement on those who do such things is in accordance with truth.' 3Do you imagine, whoever you are, that when you judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself, you will escape the judgement of God? 4Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? 5But by your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgement will be revealed. 6For he will repay according to each one's deeds: 7to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; 8while for those who are self-seeking and who obey not the truth but wickedness, there will be wrath and fury. 9There will be anguish and distress for everyone who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, 10but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. 11For God shows no partiality.

12 All who have sinned apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. 13For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous in God's sight, but the doers of the law who will be justified. 14When Gentiles, who do not possess the law, do instinctively what the law requires, these, though not having the law, are a law to themselves. 15They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, to which their own conscience also bears witness; and their conflicting thoughts will accuse or perhaps excuse them 16on the day when, according to my gospel, God, through Jesus Christ, will judge the secret thoughts of all.

1. Before reading this week's passage, go back to read Romans 1:28-32. Then read 2:1-3. Notice the dramatic shift from the pronoun *they* to *you*. Know that in the Greek, *you* in 2:1-5 is singular, not plural. What is Paul's point in making this shift in pronouns?
2. While he doesn't use the word, Paul is describing a hypocritical life. How would you define *hypocrite*? Be honest with yourself: How is your life sometimes hypocritical? Prayerfully reflect on this question. How might you move toward a non-hypocritical life?
3. What do we learn about God's dealings with hypocrites in this passage?
4. How would Paul respond to the sentiment sometimes spoken by those outside the church, "I'm not going to church. They are all a bunch of hypocrites!"?
5. When it comes to Jews and Gentiles, describe Paul's main point in this passage in one sentence.

Reflections on Romans

The central theological theme of this section is God's impartial judgment. God does not discriminate between people on the basis of who they are but judges all impartially on the basis of what they do. ... He affirms that although there is a fundamental difference in the way Gentile and Jews are related to God (since only the Jewish people stand in a covenant relationship to God), God remains an impartial judge, who judges both on the basis of what they do rather than on the basis of who they are.

From Frank Matera's commentary on *Romans*, p.67.

Next Week: Romans 2:17-3:8