



The Religious Need the Gospel

Lesson 3 | Romans 2:1-16

In Romans 2 Paul turns to the one who thinks he is right before God and reminds him that God judges everyone, and God's judgment is perfect. It's not enough to know what God wants or even to even agree that God's way is best and look down on those who rebel. You must personally follow God's laws.

God Will Judge _____: You Can't
_____ the Judge (Romans 2:1-5)

Judging _____ won't spare you judgment (2:1-3)

Paul asks those who hold others to God's standards but fall short themselves if they will avoid God's judgment. The way to escape judgment isn't by pointing out the faults in everyone else, because this doesn't address the faults in your own life.

God's _____ won't spare you judgment (2:4-5)

That God does not strike us down when we rebel against Him is very kind and gracious. Many assume there is nothing to fear because God delays His judgment, but God is giving an opportunity for repentance. When God's goodness is rejected by further sin, that goodness turns to wrath stored up for the day of judgment.

God Will Judge _____: You Can't
_____ the Judge (Romans 2:6-11)

God _____ the righteous and the unrighteous.

God will judge based on what people do. His judgment is fair and objective, and those who live righteously will be rewarded while those who live sinfully will be punished. Some people don't live lives of



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righteousness, but they expect God to show them the blessings of those who live such lives. They think that they can sin and God will overlook that sin and give them the rewards that come only to those who live righteous lives.

God doesn't show _____.

The Jews looked to their status as the chosen people of God and thought that meant they would not be held accountable for their actions. Many people today hold on to shallow hopes for why God will let them off free even though they have repeatedly broken His law.

**God Will Judge _____: You Can't
_____ with the Judge (Romans 2:12-16)**

God will fairly judge those who _____ the law

Moses charged the people to hear God's law, so that they would "observe to do it" [be careful to do it] (Deuteronomy 6:3). Jesus said that those who heard His teachings *and did them* would be blessed (Matthew 7:24-27). James warned about being hearers of God's word, but not being a doer (James 1:22-25). Paul says the same thing: it's not enough to hear God's law, we must actually obey it (Romans 2:13).

God will fairly judge those who don't _____ the law

Some might think that if you never knew God's Word, you can't be held accountable to God's law. But everyone has God's law written on their heart in the form of conscience. Our consciences don't always work because they too have been twisted by the fall. But while the conscious is an imperfect guide to obedience to God, it is a guide.

God is not a kindly grandfather who will never get around to judging us. God is not a crooked judge who will let you go free just because you're his friend. And God is not some fool who will be convinced that a guilty person should be let go. God will judge, and when He does so He will judge everyone and He will judge them fairly and accurately.

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