**Building A Strong Faith: A Study of the Book of Romans**

**Taking a Fresh Look at My Life, God and Judgment**

**Romans 2:1-16 March 3, 2024**

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As we begin 2024, I can’t think of a more important asset than a “strong faith” relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Our world is filled with both great opportunities and great challenges. The apostle Paul writes, “The righteous shall live by faith.” The book of Romans will map out a path for us how we can be rightly connected to God, ourselves, and others. “Romans is a feast for one’s soul.” There is an amazing work that God desires to do in us through His Son Jesus and empowered by His Holy Spirit. My prayer is that we will grow in our understanding of the gospel of God. The result will be a strong faith that is able to draw strength from God no matter what comes our way. Today, we will see how much we need God to transform our thinking towards our own lives, God, His purposes on this earth, and His absolute fairness in his judgment of mankind. I can trust God completely!

**The Passage: Romans 2:1-16**

**Why Study Romans?** Romans 3:19Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. 21But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

**Big Idea**: Examine and transform my view of others, God and His judgment.

**Fresh Look at My Life:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my thinking towards \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Romans 2:1 Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, *practice the very same things*.

Use of diatribe-

Practice the very same things-

Romans 2:2We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. 3Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will *escape the judgment* of God? (See Question 2)

**Spiritual Growth Questions for March 3, 2024**

**Opener:** If you could live your life without personal guilt or judgment, would you choose that? Explain.

1. **Read Romans 2:1-11, Genesis 18:25**. The underlying theme of this section is the judgment of God upon self- appointed judges. The passage can be divided into two sections: 1-4 and 5-11. What qualities of God’s judgment does each section illustrate? Why would a loving and good God judge sin?
2. **Read Romans 2:1-3, Luke 18:9-14.** What is Paul’s warning against judging others for the things we ourselves do? How do these verses cause you to look at your own life? How does the Luke passage go with these verses?What should we be looking out for in our thinking?
3. **Read Romans 2:4-5, 2 Peter 3:9**. What is the true purpose of God’s kindness and forbearance? How have you seen these attributes of God misused or overemphasized? How have you experienced God’s patience and kindness toward sinners?
4. **Read Romans 2:6-15**. Some modern people believe they are saved because their families are Christian, because they go to church, or because they know the Bible. By what standard will God judge such people (See Romans **2:6-11**)? How do verses **7 & 8** describe the direction/focus of the righteous vs. unrighteous? By what standard does God judge Jews (Or Christians) who know God’s law (See **2:13**)? And the Gentiles, who do not know God’s Law (see **2:15**)?
5. If it were possible to obey God’s law on your own, without His enabling power would God declare you righteous without faith in Christ’s work (**Read Romans 2:13**)? Why or why not? Does anyone in fact live up even to the moral law common to all people (see **Romans 1:21, 28, 3:10-11**)? Why is this important to know?
6. **Read Romans 2:15**. This verse speaks of the conscience. Why is a conscience important in this setting? What can we do to cultivate a healthy conscience? What influences have helped to shape your conscience? What can you do right now to point your conscience in a healthy direction?
7. Several times in this passage speaks of the “day of God’s wrath.” How would you advise someone to prepare for that day? How can we pray for you this week?

**For Further Study**: What are some guidelines we can follow when we think something is wrong with another Christian’s life? (**Look up in your Bibles: Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15-20, Galatians 6:1-5, Hebrews 3:12-13**)

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**Fresh Look at the Judgment of God:**

III. Help me to trust in absolute \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God.

Romans 2:2We know that the judgment of God *rightly* falls on those who practice such things

Romans 2:6He will *render* to each one according to his works:

Romans 2:11For God shows no partiality

Romans 2:12For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be *judged* by the law.

Romans 2:13For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be *justified*. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Romans 2:14For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law.

Romans 2:15They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them

Fresh look at my conscience-

Romans 2:16on that day when, according to my gospel, *God judges* the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. (**Fresh look at my secrets**)

Why study the book of Romans? (Romans 3:19-23)

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

**Prayer: Refresh and renew my conscience!**

**God will sort out the mess of the human condition!**

**I can completely trust that God is fair and just to all people.**

Escape the judgment of God-

**Prayer: May I see and treat others as God does. Remove from my soul any self-righteousness and pride.**

**Fresh look at God:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my vision of God and living my \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ for God.

Romans 2:4Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

4 Do you presume-

4 Not knowing that God’s kindness-

Romans 2:5But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. (See question 3) (We are hardened by what should soften us)

Yearbook theology-

Look at general attitude towards God, bent of one’s life, & actual conduct.

Romans 2:7to those who *by patience* in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;

7 By patience in well-doing

Romans 2:8but for those who are *self-seeking* and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. (See question 4)

8 Self-seeking-

Romans 2:9There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek,

Romans 2:10but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

Romans 2:11For God shows no partiality

**Reflective Questions:** What is the uppermost thing in my life? What do I want? Which way am I facing?

**Lord, enlarge my vision of who God is!**

**Show me what it means to live for completely for God!**