

Title: The Kindness of God

Text: Romans 2:1-4

Romans chapter 2, please. Today we come to the second area concerning the great principle of condemnation. There are certain key principles about righteousness in these first 8 chapters of Romans.

(1B) And the first principle that we are looking at is the principle of condemnation. This principle starts in chapter 1 verse 18 and will continue through chapter 3 verse 20.

(1C) And in this section we learned, first of all, that all the ungodly, unrighteous, sinful people, those who we all recognize by the things that they do, are definitely condemned.

(2C) Now, beginning with chapter 2, we come to the second group of people who are condemned. Here Paul discusses the condemnation of the self-righteous person. That is the person who look at this heathen, ungodly, sinful, corrupt person and says, "thank you Lord that I am not as bad as he is". But, unfortunately God is going to show us that the self-righteous person is also condemned.

(Read Chapter 2:1-4)

Would you join with me in a moment of prayer as we ask our Heavenly Father for direction as we study His word.

Our Father, ~~we~~ pray that in these few moments together you would direct our thoughts in your Word. You have told us that it is so important to understand your Word. We do want the Word to speak to us. We pray that you would keep us free from the opinions of men which are not the truth of your word. Our Father, we want to know your truth. So, pray, that you would give us understanding as we study in these moments together. Guide us by the power of your Holy Spirit so that each of us would become aware that this is your precious word to us. It is power in itself. And it can change our lives. We pray that you would make us aware of our own needs. And we ask this in the name of Jesus ..... Amen.

The story is told of a preacher in a small country church in the hills of Tenn. He was preaching on sin. And there was one dear old saint who was just enjoying herself. She would say "AMEN" when the preacher mentioned card playing. She would say "AMEN" when he mentioned dancing. She would say "AMEN" when he mentioned drinking. But when he mention corn cop pipes it was all that she could take. And she rose to her feet and told him so. He had stopped preaching and gone to meddling.

And as I studied this particular scripture, I do believe that the Holy Spirit is meddling in my life. Because you see, dear friends, a person with a self-righteous attitude is not simply an unbeliever. Although that certainly is what is being discussed. But a self-righteous attitude can so easily come into a believers heart. And most of the time we do not know it. It is kind off like I said a couple of weeks ago. We get reading the Word of God, or, we hear certain sermons and we say..Hay! that is right about all those other folks. And then God comes along and taps us on the shoulder and says, "wait a minute. It is you I am talking about." You see the Bible is written to all people. Whether we like it or not, the Bible is telling us what we are really like. And why we really do need to be saved. Jerimah 17: made it very clear when it says, "that we are so deceitful and sick that it is impossible for us to know how bad we really are. Who can know? Then we find the answer in Jeremiah 17:10 when we read that "it is the Lord who will search our hearts and test the mind."

I don't know my heart. And you don't know your heart. That is why it is so important to give careful heed to the Word of God. As Gods tells us exactly what we need in our life.

(1D) Now, the condemnation of the self-righteous person is seen, first of all, in their judgment of the heathen.

And in that, I would like to give you ~~the~~ <sup>two</sup> ~~three~~ major facts that reveal that they deserve to be condemned along with all the ungodly people. Because they are judging those ungodly people.

(1F) Now, the first fact ~~is that this attitude of judging the ones who are obviously in sin makes them feel that they are excuseable before a Holy God.~~ <sup>is that this attitude of judging the ones who are obviously in sin makes <sup>us</sup> them feel that <sup>we</sup> they <sup>are</sup> excuseable before a Holy God.</sup>

We get to the point of thought where we believe that because we are not like somebody we know who is really bad, we then ~~think~~ think we are not accountable for the same thing. And we <sup>Forget</sup> ~~don't know~~ that God says we are <sup>without excuse</sup> ~~in~~ excuseable.

Notice in chapter 2 verse 1 the word "excuse". "You are without excuse". It is the same word used in Vs 20 of chapter 1.

Concerning the ungodly man, Paul says they are without excuse. And he <sup>says</sup> the same thing about the self-righteous <sup>person</sup> ~~man~~. You are without excuse. <sup>We have all sinned and are short</sup>

No one is excused. No one is left out. And the problem about a self-righteous attitude is that we don't understand that we are <sup>without excuse</sup> ~~in~~ excuseable for <sup>our sin</sup> ~~the same thing~~. And that hurts, you see. That we are just like the obviouse sinners of this world. That we are really no different. And God is going to show us why. I want to share three things with you <sup>from Verse 1-3</sup> ~~about these first three verses~~.

(1F) Number one, the Bible clearly teaches in Vs 1 that this attitude of self-righteousness is really judging yourself. Did you know that? You are judging yourself.

With every self-righteous attitude, of assuming that someone is worse than you are, that you are not as bad as so and so, you are acturally judging yourself.

There are some interesting attitudes brought out in Vs 1. For example the word "another"...There are two words for "another" in the Greek language. One means "another of the same kind." The second means "another of ~~the~~ a different kind." That is the word used here. Inother words, when you judge somebody, you acturally think they are of a different kind then yourself.

~~You haven't~~

You havent even agreed, yet, that they are the same kind as you are. And yet, God is saying that all men are like that.

So, the first thing we see about a self-righteous attitude is that he is judging himself. By the very nature of the fact that he assumes that there is someone different from himself.

And then he makes the statement that you are condemning yourself. <sup>The</sup> word "condemning" is the same word "judge"; but it is put with <sup>a</sup> little compound ~~form~~ form. And the idea is "down".

Now, you can carry two ideas here. One, you are putting people down by looking at them and saying, "Hay, you are wrose than I am." So, you are putting them down. Therefore you are condemning yourself.

Now, I don't think that is the correct idea. The idea is that judgement is being brought down on your own head. You are acturally condemning yourself Because we have assumed that someone is different than we are because in the deads they commit they appear to be more sinful than we are in our own hearts. But, you see, God says there isn't anything that has crossed the mind of man that hasn't crossed the mind of another man. ~~You~~, <sup>The</sup> Bible teaches that all of us has been tested just like every man. That all of it is common to every man. When Jesus said that when you haate in your heart you have committed murder, Now, I don't like that. But that is what He has said. So, even though I haven't shot and killed another person, yet, I have hated someone, I have already committed murder. That is what Jesus said. So, if I think of someone who has committed murder as being more sinnful than myself. That attitude has already condemned me.

Now, certainly in terms of the consequence, socially and otherwise, <sup>Pen</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>as a difference</sup> ~~that case it is severe~~ <sup>Not so</sup>. But in God's program where the standard is perfection holy without sin, all of us are in the same boat.

(2F) Now, the second thing that I want you to see is in Vs 2. And that is that you cannot hide from God. You cannot ~~hide~~ <sup>see</sup> from God. Paul "we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things."

God's truth is absolute. And it is all knowing. Did you know that there isn't a thing that we have thought of in this service that God didn't <sup>already know?</sup>

*you see,* ~~How~~, God knows everything. Hebrews 4:13 says "that all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to deal."

So, if you are not trusting in Christ, I would suggest to you that ~~that~~ <sup>it</sup> could be a frightening thought. That everything that we think, every motive that we have ever had, every word that we have ever said, or deed ~~we~~ we have done, God knows. And the Bible says He will judge according to the truth. Not the truth that we think other people know. But His truth.

You see, if we don't get caught, or, no body knows what is going on in our mind, we get the self-righteous attitude. And Paul is warning us about this. Because ~~his~~ <sup>God's</sup> judgement will be according to <sup>His</sup> truth. You cannot hide from God. He knows exactly what we think and say.

*and* Isn't it interesting that in Verses one and two that Paul says, whether we like it or not, Paul says that we are doing the same thing. Do you believe that you are doing the same things that are listed in Romans chapter 1:24-32? Do you believe that?

You know, a number of people had ask for this study from the book of Romans. And I warned them at the time that ~~this~~ <sup>this</sup> was a heavy book. And the teaching is really tough. We are all condemned. And Paul is really telling it like it is. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he is really laying it on us heavy. *So, we cannot hid from God*

*and* And Paul is reminding the self-righteous person that he is doing the same things that are mentioned in Romans 1:24-32.

You see, when we don't get caught, or we do them in our minds, then we assume that it is O.K.....OH, NO....You cannot hide from God. Even though you may hide from others.

(3F) The third thing, in Vs 3, that he clearly presents, is that you cannot ~~escape the~~ <sup>escape the</sup> judgement of God. ~~You cannot escape the judgement of God,~~

In Vs 3 He says "And do you suppose this, o man, when you pass judgement upon those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgement of God?"

Did you know that no person, whether he be believer or unbeliever, has ever escaped the judgement of God?

You say, "now wait a minute Preacher, I am a Christian. And I have escaped the judgment of God." Oh, no you haven't. The judgment of God was put on Jesus Christ. Don't ever think that the sins that you have committed or thought in your life are never going to be judged. Oh, yes, they have. When Jesus died on the cross, the consequences of our sin, the judgment, the wrath of God, it was all poured out on Jesus. You see, to really get a hold of the Christian experience, we have to understand ourselves. We need to see the greatness of our sin. And we then can understand the love of Jesus when he substituted himself for our sin, bearing all that judgment on himself.

And dear friends, the only way that we can escape the consequences of God's judgment is through Christ's substitutionary death. And believe you me, that is judgment in all of its fury. And it was poured out on Jesus when he died on the cross. God will judge sin. And no one escapes the judgment of God.

(2E) Now, the second fact is found in Vs 4. First, we are inexcusable before God. Secondly, this attitude towards ungodly people makes us insensitive to our own need. Boy, how true that is.

In my own life I notice how easy it is to be insensitive to my own needs. Simply because I find those who are worse off than I am. If I can find somebody that is worse and is a "terrible sinner" in my book, then I feel that I am O.K.. And so I can go on week after week assuming that I am not as rotten as the next fellow. Because there is somebody, in my book, who is worse than me. And for this attitude, God says that I deserve judgment because I am insensitive to my own need. Now, what is my need? My need is to recognize that I am a sinner.

Would you look carefully at verse 4. "Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?"

You say, "Well, I don't think lightly of God's riches." But before you write all of this off, let me ask you a question. DO YOU THINK LIGHTLY OF ALL OF THIS THAT I HAVE BEEN SHARING WITH YOU?

In other words., do you think that all of this is a lot of baloney? If you feel that way, right now, then you are insensitive to your own need. And this passage says that you are insensitive to two things.

**(1F) First you are insensitive to God.** You say, I am not insensitive to God. I believe in Him. I love Jesus." But, wait a minute. Maybe there are some areas in which we are insensitive. And these areas are described by three words in Vs 4.

**(1G) The first word is the word "KINDNESS".** Do I think lightly of God's kindness? The Bible says to "be kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you." Do I think lightly of God's forgiveness? His kindness towards

*you?*  
I realize that God has been extremely kind to me this whole week. He could easily have staped me many times and judged me. He could have brought his wrath upon me, for the things that I have thought and done. But, He hasn't. He has been very kind. **Do we think lightly of his forgiveness, <sup>his</sup> kindness, his goodness?** Does that make us insensitive to our own need ? You see, that indifference can find its way into anyone's heart.

**(2G) Or, are we insensitive to that second word "FORBEARANCE".** This word means "to whole back". Let me illustrate.

You are setting their in the pew. The idea is that God has a perfect right, right now, right where you ARE setting, to come and lay His judgment on you. Just lay His judgment on you and consume you, right where you are setting. He has ever right to do that. AND DO YOU KNOW WHY HE DOESN'T? **FORBEARANCE**....He is holding back His wrath. **Do you understand?** Just think about it. **ARE WE THINKING LIGHTLY OF THAT? HAVE WE BECOME SO SELF-RIGHTEOUS THAT WE DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT AT ANY MOMENT, GOD HAS EVER RIGHT TO JUST SAP US AND GET RID OF US? IS**

*That Your Understanding?*

You say, "what an all full thing to teach." YOU ARE RIGHT! It really is. But God is trying to show us what we are rally like. And we have no right of any self-righteousness at all. At any time or at any place or anywhere. Dear friends, are we thinking lightly of the forbearance of God that is holding back judgment that we all deserve? (3G) This brings us to the third word in Vs. 4..patience. Are you thinking lightly about patience? The word **patience** simply means **taking a long time to boil.** I love it. God is patient towards us. And, yet, He is really boiling over with our sin and our self-righteousness. But because He takes a long time to boil, nothing is happening. **HAY! ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL? PRAISE GOD!**

2 Peter 3:9 says that "the Lord is patient to us, not wanting that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." And do you know why God is so patient? Because He loves us. Do you understand? We deserve judgment. But God doesn't bring judgment. WHY? Because He loves us and wants all to come to repentence.

(2F) Now, the second reason why we are insensitive <sup>To</sup> our need is ignorance. Notice what it says in verse 4. They were ignorant about a tremendous fact about God's working. Vs 4 says, "not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?" The kindness, the love, the grace of our Lord is leading us to repentance.

The other day I was talking to a fellow. And he was saying that ~~the~~ <sup>he</sup> had nothing to worry about. Nothing bad is happening to him. God is not judging him. I said, "wonderful, you want to be saved right now?"

He said, "No, why should I. Everything is going great. I don't need it now."

Dear friends, don't we understand that the kindness of God that spares us the judgment and consequence of His wrath is the very thing that should be leading us to repentence?

Let me explain what I mean by a simple little illustration. I have noticed that when ever I of camping there are usually a lot of



misquotes around. And so, I have learned to hang in my camper a strip of paper that raps and kills those misquotes. And I have notice that the smell of that paper is sweet. It is so sweet smelling. It is never a bad smell. It always smells nice. And those insects are attracted to that sweetness.

Now, do you see what God is trying to tell us here. It is by His love ~~love~~ and his kindness that He is drawing us to himself.

So, how is this kindness, this patience, this forbearance being described to us? It is described by holding back from us what we really deserved. Everyone of us deserves God's judgment. But God is holding it back. WHY? Why is He holding back His judgment? Why is He letting you live another day? His kindness is giving you a chance to repent of your sin. He wants ~~you~~ you to come to Him. He loves you and He doesn't want you to perish. He want you, by faith, to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

So, would you do that right now. Would you confess ~~your~~ <sup>your</sup> sin? Would you stop depending upon your self-righteousness? Would you ask Jesus to come into your heart? For God so love you, that He gave his only begotten son. That if you would believe in Jesus you would not perish, but you will have everlasting life.

The kindness of God is leading us to repentance.

Shall we close in Prayer