

Romans 2:1-11

January 25, 2026

“No Partiality”

The error of self-righteousness (verses 1-5)

- Our tendency is to judge others while we justify, or minimize, or compare our sin. Everyone is guilty of sin, and we should not sit in judgement of others.
- God's judgement is not only reserved for those who are unbelievers of Jesus, but also for those who judge unbelievers *while living* in a way that shows they don't trust in God.

The error of works-based faith (verses 6-11)

- Righteousness is not the product of our own works. It comes from faith, which is based solely upon the grace of God.
- Our identity in Christ should result in activity – what Paul calls “good works.” We don’t try to earn God’s favor; we are to glorify God and reflect his image to everyone.

True followers of Jesus

- Christ-followers know that they cannot trust their own efforts to be “right” with God. Instead, they trust in a perfect, constant, all-loving and just God, who never shows favoritism.

Kingdom-minded servants of Jesus refrain from passing judgement upon others, instead, they entrust that to God, who shows no favoritism.

Notes on Today's Message

Questions for Personal Study or Group Discussion

Open

- When you were young, which of the adults in your home was more strict? More fair? More consistent?

Read

- Romans 2:1-11

Observe

- Who does Paul address in Romans 2:1? What might this say about the Roman church, which was a mix of Jewish and Gentile converts?
- What are “such things” that Paul finds each group guilty of in verses 3-4?
- How does what Paul says in 2:1-4 relate to verses 18 and 32 of Romans 1?
- Compare Romans 1:16-17 with 2:9-11. What do these verses say about God’s righteous judgement?

Apply

- How does Paul say that we “presume on the riches of his (God’s) kindness and forbearance and patience?” What should we do when we see this in our own lives?
- In verse 6, Paul writes that God “will render to each one according to his works.” (See Psalm 62:12 and Proverbs 24:12.) How does that relate to Ephesians 2:8-10?

Prayer

- Ask God to show you ways that you pass judgement on others.
- Reflect on the ways that you try to earn God’s favor.
- Confess these to God and seek his forgiveness.

Recommended Commentaries on Romans

- Romans for You, Tim Keller (The Good Book Company)
- Romans: An Introduction and Commentary, F. F. Bruce (IVP Academic)
- The Letter to the Romans (New International Commentary on the New Testament), Douglas Moo (Eerdmans)