

Romans 2:1-4
“I’m All Good...”

~ INTRO ~

LAST WEEK

- We learned about the *secular-man* who rejects God.

GOD... TURNS PEOPLE OVER TO THEIR OWN WAYS.

- (1:24) “*He gave them up to uncleanness...*”
- (1:26) “*He gave them up to vile passion...*”
- (1:28) “*He gave them over to a debased mind...*”

PEOPLE GET STUCK IN THE VICES OF SIN...

- It’s an external demonstration of how the heart has rejected God.
 - And God lets people go their own way – “*Judicial Abandonment.*”

CHARLES SWINDOLL:

*“Rather than enabling the drug addict, by providing a hot shower & soft bed, the Lord leaves... [this person] in the gutter to lie in a pool of his own filth, until he decides he wants better.”*¹

THINK ABOUT THE PRODIGAL SON... (Luke 15:11-21).

GOD ALLOWS NATURAL CONSEQUENCES...

- Because He wants to get our attention.

OK... GRAB THE BIG PICTURE HERE...

- (Romans 1- 3) is like a funnel:
 - **Chp. #1** addresses the **Secular Man**...
 - Who militantly rejects & suppresses the *light of creation*.
 - **Chp. #2** addresses the **Moral Man**...
 - Who relies on doing good & yet judges hypocritically...
 - By excusing the *light of his own conscience*.
 - **Chp. #3** addresses the **Religious Man**...
 - Who is confronted with the *light of Christ*.

¹ Swindoll, Charles R.. Insights on Romans (Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary Book 6) . Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.. Kindle Edition (p.1057).

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ALL THREE DESCRIBE THE REJECTION OF GOD.

- (Rom. 3:23) *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”*

PAUL’S AIM...

- Is to help people accept Christ... NOT reject Him.
 - But he must have a sobering conversation first.

IDEA #1 – THE WRONG ATTITUDE:

(v.1) Practice *“the same things”*

- The idea is NOT identical, BUT just as bad!
 - The *secular-man* & the *moral-man*.

THE MORAL MAN...

- May NOT be guilty of the same **depth of sin**...
 - But he is just as guilty... because he’s **in sin**.

IF YOU CAN RECEIVE TRUTH...

- Being socially-responsible does NOT cleanse the heart.
- Being highly-educated does NOT alter the sinful nature.
- Having a good job does NOT mean you’re better off before God.
- Attending church does NOT mean you’re right with God.

MANY PEOPLE...

- Become hardhearted... because they wander from the truth...
 - And they won’t receive correction!

(Isa. 30:10b) NLT

“Don’t tell us what is right. Tell us nice things...”

(Jer. 6:14) NLT

*“They offer superficial treatments for My people’s mortal wound.
They give assurance of peace when there is no peace.”*

(2 Tim. 4:1-2) NKJV

- *Correct* = Voice disapproval / expose / refute faulty reasons
- *Rebuke* = Tax with a fault
- *Exhort* = Teach the duty & obligations of God’s people

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Leaders:

You have a high calling and you need to stop being lazy.

- You fill your life with busyness & excuses.
 - Some of you are neglecting your calling & role in the local church.
 - Burdened
 - Under
 - Satans
 - Yoke

Followers:

God wants all of your heart...

- You surge and then you slip.
 - This is your pattern in life, more often than you stay.
 - God wants consistency in your life.

Attendees:

God has grace for you too...

- How far must you fall, before you acknowledge His love?
 - Must you be humbled like the prodigal son?

~ IN CLOSING ~

(Gen. 4:6-7) NKJV

TODAY...

- Many of you... need to hear the love of your Father...
 - As He speaks a word of correction to you.
- Don't abuse grace by refusing His voice.