

“It’s Me! It’s You! God’s Law Applies to Us” Romans 2:1-16

It is easy to look at the list of sins in Romans 1:28-32 and say, “I don’t commit all those sins, God’s condemnation, God’s Law, is pointing at someone else!”

Yet, chapter two of Romans applies God’s condemnation to us!

Or to anyone else who would say like the Pharisee in Jesus’ parable –

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. Luke 18:11 (NKJV)

Fact is, we are like other men, we are like other sinners ...

I. God will judge the judges among men –

2 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. ² But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. ³ And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? Romans 2:1–3 (NKJV)

1. Judging is risky business at best –

A. This is why even when it is necessary among men, two or three witnesses are required –

⁶ Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness. Deuteronomy 17:6 (NKJV)

¹⁵ “One witness shall not rise against a man concerning any iniquity or any sin that he commits; by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established. Deuteronomy 19:15 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. 1 Timothy 5:19 (NKJV)

B. Yet, often judgment is not the official, necessary kind, but the in-our-heads-self-righteous kind –

We look at sinners, whose sin may be more obvious than ours and we think ourselves better than that person, and therefore NOT CONDEMNED, righteous, on-the-fast-track to Heaven ...

2. What we miss is that we will be judged by God -

² But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. Romans 2:2

3. We are judged by God and His standards are different than ours – is according to truth ...

He judges not just murder, but anger in the heart, not only adultery, but lust in the heart – Matthew 5:21-30

II. *Don't presume because you are not in Hell, yet, or in jail, or in pain with cancer, or another extreme disease, that God will not judge you later –*

⁴ Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? ⁵ But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: Romans 2:4–6 (NKJV)

1. *Despising God's goodness is NOT an unusual thing, it is the NORM for the ungodly – Asaph speaks of the prosperity of the wicked ...*

Psalm 73:3–23 (NKJV)

³ ... I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ⁴ For *there are* no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm. ⁵ They are not in trouble as *other* men, Nor are they plagued like *other* men. ⁶ Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them *like* a garment. ⁷ Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish. ⁸ They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily. ⁹ They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth. Psalm 73:3–9 (NKJV)

A. *God provides for them, allows them even health, ease and riches, yet not only do they not repent, they speak against God – Psalm 73:3-9 ↑*

B. *Yet, the heights they reach, though attained through sin, only makes their downfall harder -*
¹⁸ Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. ¹⁹ Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. Psalm 73:18-19

2. *If we think we are okay, because of prosperity or because of even spiritual prosperity, I go to a Bible believing church, or I am a pastor or elders, or leader in the women's group but I am unrepentant of in my mind of lessor, or little, or secret sins or HEART sins, which I indulge in ...*

But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: Romans 2:5–6 (NKJV)

3. *Pray we don't deceive ourselves, because our sins seem smaller than someone else's... or because God has BLESSED us, and is not currently giving us any great pain(s) –*

⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; ⁶ For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.” ⁷ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? ⁸ But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Hebrews 12:5–8 (NKJV)

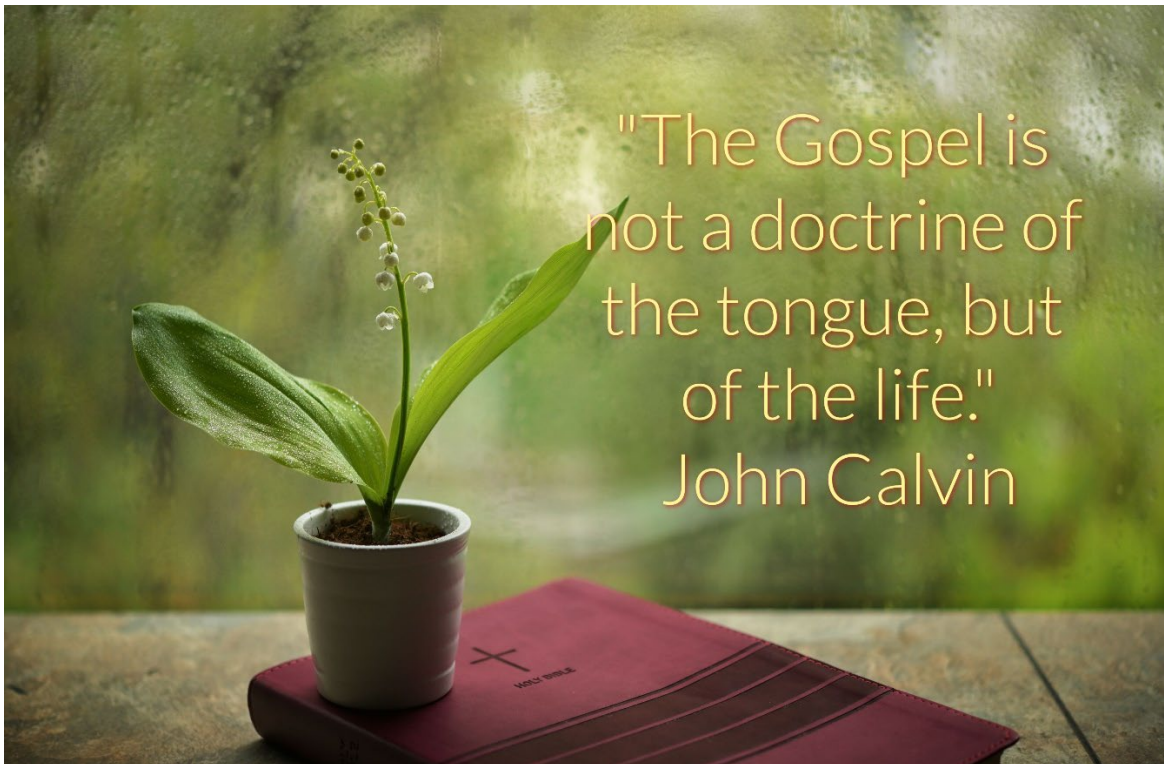
A. *If you are going through hard times, rejoice, it is good for you –*

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, James 1:2 (NKJV)

B. *Beware, if all is going well – Hebrews 12:8; Luke 6:24-26*

III. *Believe it, God will judge righteously, according to truth, reality, He is not mocked –*

⁶ who *“will render to each one according to his deeds”*: ⁷ eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; ⁸ but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, ⁹ tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; ¹⁰ but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God. Romans 2:6–11 (NKJV)



¹⁰ As it is written: *“There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.* Romans 3:10–11 (NKJV)

None of us make it to Heaven by our “good works” – we all fall short of God’s glory –

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:23 (NKJV)

1. *The doing good - :6 above is what Christ did –*

³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. Acts 10:38 (NKJV)

2. *Any good we do, is ultimately due to Jesus Christ, God the Father and God the Holy Spirit*

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,* ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)

IV. God will judge all, with or without the LAW (Bible) –

¹² For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law ¹³ (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; ¹⁴ for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*) ¹⁶ in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel. Romans 2:12–16 (NKJV)

1. Sinned without the law, perish without the law... :12 A

A. Even those without the law have God's law written on their hearts, shown by their sometimes trying to do what is right and good ... they have a conscience ...

B. These according to Jesus are judged less harshly than those who had more light, better teaching –

²⁰ Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: ²¹ **“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.”** Matthew 11:20–24 (NKJV)

2. Sinned in the law, will be judged by it - :12 B

Paul elaborates on this in the rest of chapter 2 --- Practice what you preach – points at ME!

¹⁷ Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God, ¹⁸ and know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, ¹⁹ and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰ an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law. ²¹ You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? ²² You who say, “Do not commit adultery,” do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? ²⁴ For *“the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,”* as it is written. ²⁵ For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. ²⁶ Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? ²⁷ And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law? ²⁸ For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, nor *is* circumcision that which *is* outward in the flesh; ²⁹ but *he is* a Jew who *is one* inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise *is* not from men but from God. Romans 2:17–29 (NKJV)

3. The more privileged you are, the more you are expected to be a star -

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, Philippians 2:12–15 (NKJV) See also Luke 12:48 *to whom much is given, much is required*