

Book Study #3 ROMANS Rom. 2:1-16 God's Righteous Judgment

Before We Begin...

1. How does a critical review of a movie or concert affect your decision about attending it?
2. On what basis do people often judge other people?

Discovery...

3. Why are those who pass judgment on others actually condemning themselves? What do they not understand about sin and judgment? _____
4. Why else should we avoid judging others?

Matthew 7:1-5

Romans 14:4; James 4:12



Sort, Organize, Discuss, Understand...

5. Paul states that eternal life will be given to those who seek it by "persistence in doing good" (v. 7). How can this be reconciled with his teaching later in Romans (3:20-24, 3:28; 6:23) that salvation is a free gift and comes through faith, not works? (see Matthew 7:15-23, Galatians 5:6; James 2:26).

6. In what sense is the gospel powerful? (v. 16) How is that power demonstrated?
7. What else can we learn about the gospel from verses 9 and 16-17?

Topical Study...

Judgment. In this passage Paul refers to "the day" of God's judgment twice (vv. 5, 16), and uses the word "judgment" or "judge" eight times. The purpose of this topical study is to gain a deeper understanding of God's judgment by examining other passages which discuss it.

Who will be the judge? Rom. 2:16 (see John 5:22-27)

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Who will be judged? (see 2 Cor. 5:9-10)

Rom. 2:6

Rom. 14:10-12

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What will be judged? (see the commentary on vv. 6-10)*

Matthew 12:36	Rom. 2:6-10 (see Matthew 16:27)
Matthew 25:31-46	1 Cor. 4:5
Rom. 2:16	

What will be the outcome for believers? (see John 3:18; 1 Cor. 3:8; Eph. 6:8)

Matt. 25:46	Rom. 8:1
Rom. 2:7, 10	1 Cor. 3:10-15

What will be the outcome for unbelievers?

Matthew 13:40-43	Rom. 2:8-9
Matt. 25:41, 46	

8. Will those who have never heard of the Ten Commandments be condemned for breaking them?
Why or why not? (vv. 14-16)

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***COMMENTARY VS. 6-10 “God will give to each person according to what he has done...”**

Paul uses a quote from Psalm 62:12 to introduce his point that judgment and reward are based on actions rather than ethnic identity. The first of these--judgment--presents no problem. It is the clear teaching of the Scriptures that judgment is based on works; those who die apart from Christ will get what they justly deserve (see Matt. 12:47-48). But the second statement, that God will give eternal life, and "glory, honor, and peace" to those who do good, is more difficult. We know that Paul is not saying salvation comes by good works; he denies that in very clear terms (Rom. 3:20-24, 28; Gal. 2:16, 3:11). What then does he mean? It seems most likely that Paul is speaking here of good works as bringing eternal life in the sense that those works are an expression of faith. The faith is what saves, and the works are the fruit of faith. This is consistent with other New Testament passages which speak of works as the natural expression of faith (Matt. 7:15-23; Gal. 5:6; James 2:26).