

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

WRATH TOWARD “RELIGIOUS” PEOPLE

Romans 2:1-5

Hypocritical Judgment

Romans 2:1-2

- ❑ In the context, the point seems to be that the Jews were proud about their own relationship with God and would have agreed with Paul on everything he said to the Gentiles in Chapter 1. They judged the Gentiles for being so sinful, not recognizing that their own sin must be judged under the same wrath. In judging others, they were also judging themselves!
- ❑ When challenging sin in others, we must always be careful to be addressing our own sin.
Matthew 7:1-5
- ❑ By judging someone else, I am claiming to be living by the same standard. Search your own heart. Is this true of you?

To Judge or Not To Judge, That is the Question.

As Christians, we are called on to make judgments. But we must not be hypocrites when we judge others, and we are to make judgments in order to restore others and to guard the church.

Matthew 7:3-5, 7:15-20, 18:15-20, Galatians 6:1-2

The VIP fallacy

Romans 2:3

The Jews thought that since historically they had a special relationship with God, that they were guaranteed God’s eternal blessing. *Luke 3:7-9*

God’s Kindness and Unbelievers

Romans 2:4

- ❑ Because Paul is talking about repentance and wrath, it is clear he is speaking about unbelievers—probably unbelieving Jews.
- ❑ His kindness to unbelievers is His “testimony.” *Acts 14:14-18*
- ❑ It shows His love for them. *Matthew 5:43-45*
- ❑ This is an example of unbelievers showing contempt for God’s kindness. *2 Peter 3:9*

Storing Up Wrath?

Romans 2:5

Since God’s wrath is deserved by everyone because of their own sin and Adam’s sin, they are storing up wrath for themselves because they continue to sin with the extra time they are given.

God’s righteous judgment will be revealed

The certainty of this should cause us to redouble our efforts in sharing the Gospel and to make sure that we understand and embrace the Gospel ourselves. *Hebrews 4:12*

Implications

1. How often are you quick to judge the behaviors of others that you do not apply to yourself? What does this indicate about your judgment of others? What does it indicate about your own spiritual life?
2. If we must depend on God’s forgiveness, shouldn’t we be very, VERY forgiving to others?
3. We should respond properly to God’s kindness and we should encourage unbelievers to do the same.