

Romans 2

verse 1 Paul does pass judgement on people in his epistles so what is he getting at here? Mt 7:1 Perhaps the point is getting the mind of God instead of our own prejudices and be willing to repent of the application in our own life. The only difference then between you and the one you pass judgement on is the fact that you are willing to repent. That would temper and direct your rebuke toward a fruitful end. Humility rebukes with gentle love not self-righteous pride.

verse 2 Our judgements of people when not directly from the Spirit are influenced by our flesh and its desire to justify itself or measure itself with another instead of the real standard, God! 2Corinthians 10:12

verse 3 Psychiatrists tell us the thing that bothers us the most about people is usually a thing we dislike about ourselves. When an issue irritates you it would be wise to examine your own heart to see if the real irritation is in you. OC says God brings people into our lives that illustrate for us the way we act toward God.

verse 4 Face your own sins, repent, and thank God for his grace. One source of appreciation and love for God is to realize what fallen creatures we are and how far we fall short of his glory. That also gives us patience and understanding of our fellow man.

verse 5 This is stubbornness to ignore God's revelation to you of Himself so that your continued sins compound the error with unrepentance. Just as the reward of the righteous is stored up for eternity, so the wrath against wickedness and rebellion is stored up.

verse 6 Psalm 62:12, Proverbs 24:12 Only what the Spirit does through us will last for reward. For the righteous, the sins are covered but the eternal fruit that you allow the Spirit to bear through you will bring an eternal reward. As the unrepentant refuse to yield to the Spirit, the works of the flesh that cause fruits of wickedness will follow them into eternity. There is no covering. A just God will give them according to their actions that flowed from their hearts.

verse 7 Psalm 17:15, 16:11 The only way to do this is by the Spirit, as Paul will demonstrate in chapters 7,8. Persistence is more than the seed that fell in rocky soil and immediately sprung up but soon withered because it had no root. It's the plants that go on to maturity producing 30, 60, 100x. To seek glory... Moses had glory on his face after being in God's presence. We always seek to give God all the glory, but as we do it overflows onto our lives. It is not self-seeking that is in the next verse. The world needs more people that shine with his glory. "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another, and you do not seek the glory that is from the one and only God?" John 5:44 (NASB) Glory = honor,

approval, respect, distinction. "It signifies the believers exalted status as the objects of divine approbation and blessedness, and eschatologically, the eventual ontic (being) transformation of their persons into this beatific condition. It is the state in which one is accorded the fullest enjoyment of the admiration and honor of God - the object of his highest regard and praise." Zodiates 1Peter 4:14 The Spirit of Glory - the Spirit imparts to the believer a foretaste and promise of full, open and future glory.

Notice also that we have immortality as a thing sought by doing good (the ultimate good is accepting the Son). That immortality is of course in the presence of God. To those He gives eternal life, which is much more than immortality. Jesus declares himself to be Life... eternally in his presence.

verses 8– 11 God is going to justly display his anger against those who refuse the work of the Son. Self-seeking is so common in our culture!

verse 12,13 Paul is not saying the Law can save you, as he will bring out later that all have sinned. He is saying if you trust the Law for salvation you have to keep it all.

verse 14 –16 Someday, all the self seeking, the conviction, and obedience or disobedience, the inner and outer revelation of God to man will all be publicly known. Then we will get what we deserve, unless the wrongs have been covered by the precious blood of Christ. Imagine standing before the spirits of all time and places as God plays back a tape of your thoughts and decisions. Thank you Jesus for the blood that covers my sin. It is more precious to me each hour, each day, each year. I don't have to say like Peter, "Go away from me for I am a sinful man." I can say, "help me stay close to you, for your blood was shed for my sins and makes me right with You. Expose them, forgive them and draw me closer."