



ROMANS series study guide

Pastor: Pastor Henry Schorr

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Sermon Title: Romans Part 4 – The Danger of Trusting in the Wrong Things

PURSUE RELATIONSHIP: Opportunities to connect and pray as a group

1. What is your 'statute of limitations' on leftovers in the fridge? In other words, when are leftovers ready to be thrown away?
2. From your experience, is it easier for those who grew up in a Christian home to appreciate God's grace, or someone who had no religious training as a child?

PURSUE GOD: Time that is devoted to the Word of God

Read Romans 2:1-4

1. What kind of judgment is Paul condemning in Romans chapter 2? Is 'judging' others always wrong?
2. How does God's kindness lead people to repentance (v.4)?

PURSUE MISSION: Seek to be the community of God's people in your community

Read the following Scriptures: Romans 2:5-11, Rom 3:22-23, Titus 3:5, Eph 2:8-10

1. Many people in our culture feel that if they live relatively good lives, they will be in God's good books. How would you explain from these verses what the basis of a person's salvation is and what role good works play?
2. How can we pray for people who may be hard to love and difficult not to judge?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

Pastor Henry said: "Someone once asked a pastor what is the best translation of the Bible. The pastor said, 'The best translation of the Bible I know is a life that is fully devoted to Jesus Christ.'

-What areas of my life might I be holding back from the Lord? Pray for the grace to lay your entire life at his feet in love, trust and obedience.

-Think about a person in your life who may be hard to love and difficult not to judge, and pray for them.

THE WORD (NIV)

Rom 2:1-11

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. ² Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. ³ So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? ⁴ Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

⁵ But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ God "will repay each person according to what they have done." ⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. ⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. ⁹ There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; ¹⁰ but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹¹ For God does not show favoritism.

Rom 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Titus 3:5

he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Eph 2:8-10

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

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ROMANS series study summary

The Danger of Trusting in the Wrong Things

Romans 2:1-11

Pastor Henry Schorr

In Romans 1, the Apostle Paul gives a detailed account of the gospel, starting with the bad news of man's problem. It is a heart-breaking picture of our world and the reasons why it is the way it is. In Romans 2 the focus shifts to people who seem to be respectable, moral, law-abiding people: not perfect but putting confidence in their respectability; judging those who reject God, yet themselves living self-centered lives. Paul warns of the danger to those respectable people who may be trusting in the wrong things.

Paul does not want them to have a false confidence, nor to trust in the wrong things. A sign of false confidence is the inclination to judge others hypocritically and self-righteously (Romans 2:1). We have a tendency to condemn others while at the same time turning a blind eye to our own sin. We rename our sins to seem less serious. All of this makes us unqualified to judge. As guilty as they, we face the same judgement (v.3) because God is just; neither showing favouritism (v.11) nor comparing us to other people. His only standard is his perfect Son.

A judgmental spirit reflects a heart that trusts in the wrong things. We convince ourselves that good behaviour will save or exempt us from God's judgement. Our sin loses its offensiveness; we see no need for repentance. We are wrong (v.5), and should not presume on the grace of God (v.4). Yet God is kind, tolerant and patient (v.4). Why? To wake us up and realize we need grace and forgiveness as much as those whose sins are more obvious. God's grace means he does not judge us as we deserve; instead he treats us according to his mercy (Rom 3:22-24). He is a God of second chances and slow to enact judgement. We are not to judge each other, but to allow the Spirit of God to judge our own attitudes and behaviours in truth and love. For we are subject to present judgement; though not of God's wrath (for Christ took that on himself) but of God's discipline in this life (1 Cor. 11:31-32; Hebrews 12:5-12). Instead of judging others we can pray that God helps them, and pray that God will help us to love them.

In Romans 2, Paul is not talking about the basis of our salvation but about the basis for God's judgement on works (Rom 2:6; 1:17). Paul explains the basis of our salvation later in Romans (3:22) and in his other letters (e.g. Titus 3:5; Eph 2:8). Faith in God precedes God rewarding the good works. Our works do matter: they are the evidence of the faith that saves. While good works show our faith, they do not add to our faith. As we must not conclude that good works are added in order to be saved, neither are good works optional, (Rom 2:13; James 1:22). Those saved by grace through faith must continually ask, 'What is it you are calling me to do?' (Eph 2:9-10).

When we become Christians, we surrender our lives to a new master, Jesus Christ: to trust, know, and follow his direction. Our lives are determined by direction, not perfection. Where we spend eternity is based on what Jesus did for us. How we spend eternity is based on what we did for Christ and his Kingdom, ...your labour in the Lord is not in vain (1 Cor 15:58). See also Matt 6:6, Mark 9:41, Luke 14:14, Col 3:22-24, 1 Tim 6:18, Hebrews 11:6.