

## The Good News

### Week 3 - Romans 2:1-16

#### Objectives:

- Recognize we all sin and need a Savior.
- Wrestle with our inability to judge others because we do the same things and are all on a level playing field.

? What's something you think you know more about than 95% of the people in this room?

#### A No-Judgement Zone

Can someone summarize Romans 1?

#### Read Romans 2:1–16 NIV:

**2** 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. <sup>2</sup> Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. <sup>3</sup> 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? <sup>4</sup> 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?

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> God "will repay each person according to what they have done." <sup>7</sup> To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. <sup>8</sup> But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. <sup>9</sup> There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; <sup>10</sup> but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>11</sup> For God does not show favoritism.

<sup>12</sup> All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. <sup>13</sup> For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. <sup>14</sup> (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. <sup>15</sup> They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) <sup>16</sup> This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

? What are some observations from Romans 2:1-16 (no interpretations, just observations)?

? Who is Paul talking to in chapter 2? Why is this significant?

? Verse 1 starts with “therefore”. What is therefore referring to in chapter 1?

? How does passing judgment show contempt for the riches of God’s kindness, forbearance and patience?

? Why is it so easy to judge others? What does it reveal about our own hearts? (Read Luke 18:9-14)

? Where do you see this (judging others and putting yourself above others) play out in the world? In your own life?

? Judging can be very subtle—oftentimes we don’t know we’re doing it. What are indicators that we are judging others?

? What are the dangers of judging others?

#### **Bad News/Good News...**

? It says in verse 6 that God will repay each person according to what they have done. The first four verses just got done saying we are all sinners. What is Paul saying here?

? This is pretty bleak. Where is the good news? Read Galatians 1:3-5 <sup>3</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup> to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

? Have you experienced the requirements of the law being written on your heart? What are examples?

? The purpose of the law was to reveal our sin and show us our need for a Savior. Knowing that the law is written in everyone, how does this affect how we view and treat others? Non-believers?

#### **For Discussion and Accountability**

? Are there areas in your life where you feel like you are better than others? How can we as your small group keep you accountable?

? Are there things you do that make you feel like you have earned favor with God? How can you remind yourself of the truth this week?