

Wrestling with Romans
Romans 2
Discussion Guide, February 21, 2021

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. – Romans 1:20

- In what area of your life did you say "God you are God and I am not" this past week?

OPEN:

- When has a situation changed your perspective on life?
- Scripture speaks often of the final judgment of all people, how does that helpfully impact Christian's perspective?

READ and ASK: Romans 2:1-16

- When we judge others, what do we do to ourselves?
 - o If God is judging others for their sins, what will He do to us?
 - o In what situations do you find yourself passing judgment on other people?
- What keeps us from acknowledging and repenting of our sins?
- What leads people to repentance? How do you know this to be true?
 - o How do you typically think of people coming to repentance?
 - o What does this truth remind us of? (2:4)
- What are the consequences of not responding positively to God's kindness?
- On what basis will God render His judgments? (2:6).
 - o How do we reconcile this with being justified by faith?
 - o What is the reward in God's judgment? Punishment?
- In the final judgment how can Jews be expected to be treated by God? (2:9-11)
 - o How does this text tell us God will deal with people who have not heard His law?

READ and ASK: Romans 2:17-29

- Why would the Gentiles blaspheme God's name because of the Jews?
 - o How can those who aren't believers blaspheme God because of believer's conduct?
- What was the original intent of the law and circumcision? (see Genesis 17:1-14)
 - o How had the Jews missed the point of what circumcision was all about?

- In contrast to physical circumcision, how is "circumcision of the heart" acquired, and what does it mean? (Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6; Jeremiah 4:4; 9:25-26)
- How did Paul redefine what it means to be a Jew?
 - o Whose approval does a true Jew seek?
- What is the real mark of God's family?
 - o How could a person be very religious and yet be lacking a real relationship with God?

APPLY:

- Where in your life do you need God to deal with your attitude toward people you tend to think are not as "good" as you are?
- As you mature spiritually, does your appreciation of God's grace grow stronger, or is it more likely to be taken for granted?
- Has your faith become more than a ritual? When did that happen for you?
 - o What custom do you have that needs to become less of a ritual and more of a matter of the heart?
- How do our actions show others we genuinely believe?
- How should your anticipation of a coming judgment day affect your daily behavior?
- If you began to embody a perspective of God's judgment daily, what attitudes or actions would need to change?
 - o NEXT STEP: What do you need to do today to get ready for judgment day?

Memory Work:

To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. - Romans 2:7