

REVIEW:

→ Studying “Romans” in order to know God more clearly and to know how to explain the good news more clearly

These two goals are related! Explaining the gospel clearly and knowing God clearly are related

→ First the bad news: The wrath of God (to set up The Good News: the grace of God)

#2: **God Is A Just Judge**

1. **God is judgmental**

Verse 2 “*the judgment of God?*”

MKGG: greatness of His love, yes, His wisdom, yes, His power, yes.... and His justice!

If we think He is not, what are we thinking? That we are not “judgable”? That we are not responsible for our actions (slaves of sin? / dead to God?) → **WLBI, Sunday, January 22.**

If we think He is not, what are we thinking? That He isn’t judgmental because He is so loving?

But we all expect SOME people to be judged...

Human history:

The big names... Stalin, Hitler, Pol Pot, Idi Amin, Saddam Hussein

The little names... Charles Manson, Ted Bundy, Clifford Olsen, Paul Bernardo

The “no-names”... people never caught: including the people who have hurt us.

This is how we cope (or at least how we are instructed to cope)

Romans 12:19-20 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY,” says the Lord.

2. **God’s judgments are righteous**

Verse 2 “And we know that *the judgment of God rightly falls* upon those who practice such things.”

Verses 5,6 “But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of *the righteous judgment of God*, who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS

Verse 11 “*There is no partiality with God*”

God judges these people just because He IS loving ...

You **can’t** love everything at the same time.

To love a thing requires that you take a strong stand against its enemies.

Similarly, you **sometimes** can’t love **everyone** at the same time. Sometimes, to love someone requires that you take a strong stand against that person’s enemies.

Justice is His idea just as life is His idea **He wrote the book on justice.!**

He is the righteous One. And the history of the world requires Him to be:

- What about George W. Bush in regard to the war against Iraq: the 30,000 civilians killed?
- What about the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki?
- Who is responsible for the Canadian government’s refusal to allow Jews to immigrate from Germany in the 1930’s?

And what should we expect of Him in regard to **all of the child abuse** in the world today?

In fact, His judgment is something to praise God for!

Psalms 98:7-9

Let the sea roar and all it contains, The world and those who dwell in it.
Let the rivers clap their hands, Let the mountains sing together for joy
Before the LORD, for He is coming to judge the earth; He will judge the world with righteousness And the peoples with equity.

Revelation 19:1-3

After these things I heard something like a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; BECAUSE HIS JUDGMENTS ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS; for He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth with her immorality, and HE HAS AVENGED THE BLOOD OF HIS BOND-SERVANTS ON HER." And a second time they said, "Hallelujah! HER SMOKE RISES UP FOREVER AND EVER."

Crime DOESN'T pay! The bad guys DO get caught and punished! All of them! No one really gets away with anything!!!

There IS justice in the world! In fact, there is PERFECT justice!

3. God's judgments are severe

Romans 2:5-9

But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in **the day of wrath and revelation** of the righteous judgment of God, who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, **wrath and indignation**. There will be **tribulation and distress** for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek...

Interestingly, Paul doesn't go into great detail --- but the Lord Jesus does!!!

"the weeping and gnashing of teeth"

Matthew 25:41

"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels..."

Hebrews 10:31

It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

4. God's judgments are thorough

Romans 2:11-16

For **there is no partiality with God**. For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law
... the day when, according to my gospel, **God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus**.

Romans 14:10-12

But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God...So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

1 Corinthians 4:5

Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, *but wait* until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *men's* hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Matthew 12:36

"But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

And this sets us up for the punchline to the bad news...

Here's the summary of "the handle" on the first three chapters:

Last week...

1. **First The Bad News: (*The Wrath of God*)**

This week...

2. **God is a just judge**

Next week...

3. **And everyone is guilty** (2:17-3:20) (And then the good news begins to get explained at 3:21...)

APPLICATION:

in the meantime... what do you do about the justice of God?

(Do you praise God for it? If you don't, is it simply that you don't have any sense of any enemies?)

What To Do About The Judgment of God

1. **Understand and believe it.** (WLBI may help)

Will you entrust all of your offenses to Him? Will you entrust yourself to Him? Will you pray for your enemies in regard to it?

Luke 6:27,28

"Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for their fathers used to treat the false prophets in the same way. "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

2. **Praise God for it.**

Romans 12:19

Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

3. **Prepare for it.**

Romans 4-11.