

God's Kindness Leads to Repentance 2021-11-07

Romans 2:1-5

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. 3 Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?

4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Not commit outward flagrant sin (idolatry, immorality, homosexuality) so think free from well-deserved judge/punish.

- Outwardly decent, respectable but sin in secret/private or in their heart.
 - Clearly addressing moral, religious, non-Christians but Christians also fall into the sin of self-righteousness, hypocrisy.

- God leads self-right sinners to repent by His kindness, tolerance, patience.

Self-right more concern about external conformity than inner godliness. Matthew 5:27

- internal, unseen sins of heart are just as evil as outward, obvious sin.
 - Lust is the internal source of adultery. Karissa ex. Ephesians 4:26
 - OK to be angry at injustice, crime, violence but must not sin.

Self-righteous people judge/condemn others' sins while overlooking their own sins. Romans 2:2, Luke 18:11 Matthew 23:28, 7:3-4

- Make sin more palatable by renaming: upset not angry, sharing not gossip.
- Justify self by comparing themselves with others not God's Word.
- When do use Word, they judge based on selective verses not all of it.
 - Condemn as "legalists" those seek to obey all of Word.
- Inclined to use Bible to prove how sinful others are than to see own sin.
 - Use Word primarily as a magnifying glass not a mirror.

The fact that we see sins in others leaves us without excuse before God. Romans 2:1, 3

- Judging others demonstrates we are responsible/able to judge self and repent.
 - If condemn someone lying and then you lie, you've condemned self.
- Righteous God does not condemn unrighteousness of some but not all, if both practice same sins.
 - Punishment has 2 purposes: execute justice or correct character (discipline).
 - Lost storing up wrath for future judgement. Romans :5, 1 Corinthians 11:32
 - God's punishment of Christians always corrective and administered in love.

God leads self-right sinners to repent by His kindness, tolerance, patience. Romans 2:4

- God's kindness leads Him to tolerate (*absence of hostility*) and be patient with sinners.
 - Not tolerance of sin but withholds sinners deserved/just punishment.
- So used to sin without instant punishment that when justice appears, think it injustice

Easy to mistake God's "long" patience for approval of selfish or sinful living.

- We assume that sin goes unpunished or there are no consequences to it.
 - Presume: to think lightly; to despise, verb: treat with contempt.
- Thinking lightly of God's mercy does not require openly reject it but simply not repenting of sin.

No one should take sin more seriously than a Christian. Luke 18:13, 5:29, 7:5

- Christians should desire that justice prevails, not just that the sinner is punished but the Christian is purified
- True Christians regularly judge own sins on heart/thought level, based on Word.
 - By His kindness, tolerance, patience - God leads self-right sinners like us to repent.
 - Then effect, influence lives not with self-righteous judgment but with holy living.