

Romans 2 Self Righteous Whiplash

10/18/09 - The Exchange

- I. Intro
 - A. Revisit point of the letter, 1:16. Context of chunks/thoughts.
 - B. Review progression of 1:18-32. Man suppresses/ignores truth of God, decides he is in charge, snowballs. God's righteous judgment.
 - C. This is a hard chapter
 1. Mirror chapter, applies to me as much as anyone.
 2. Also a "Yeah, but..." chapter.
 3. Easy to take out of context by itself. Listen to what I am saying, not what I'm not saying. To much is based on what is not said.
- II. 2:1-16
 - A. 2:1-11
 1. 2:1-3
 - a) **inexcusable** - same as 1:20, without apologetic
 - b) **judge** - context, context, context. Generally to form/have an opinion on something. Also to judge as a court room.
 - c) **condemn** - judge against, sentence
 - d) **practice** - just as it sounds, same as 1:32
 - e) In contrast to God's judgment in 1:18-32. More in contrast to 1:32, **approve of those who practice**
 - f) He's saying that you are in the same boat as those who suppress the truth, putting yourself in the position of deciding good and bad, right and wrong, what to believe.
 - g) Yeah, but, aren't we supposed to confront sin? Absolutely, but with goal of restoration, not condemnation. **John 3:17**.
 2. Self righteousness - other brother syndrome. **Luke 15:25-30**.
 - a) We almost never know when we are being SR. We think we are right, and we probably are. Pride, entitlement.
 - b) SR says "I don't need/have to do that" or "I have special permission to do that."
 - c) SR precludes repentance in the self and in others.
 - d) Self righteousness amongst Christians. My church vs your church.
 - e) SR no better off than others, don't understand or forgotten God's grace.
 3. 2:4 Repentance
 - a) **despise** - think little or nothing of
 - b) **goodness** - moral integrity, kindness. Relates to disposition, not so much acts. Exists in parallel and mellows the wrath/judgment of God.
 - c) **forbearance** - temporary overlooking of sin, not forgiveness
 - d) **patience** - waiting for change to happen
 - e) **not knowing** - ignorant of, not recognizing, empty minded
 - f) **leads** - present tense
 - g) **repentance** - change of mind
 - (1) Only time in Romans.
 - (2) Play on words with **not knowing**.

- (3) Repentance and self righteousness don't mix. Doesn't happen self, not hoped for in others.
 - (4) From our side repentance should result in a change of actions because of a change of mind.
 - (5) From God's side, God leads to (Rom 2:4), and also grants/gives repentance (Acts 10-11, Cornelius).
 - (6) So, God leads us to opportunity, we act on opportunity, change mind, change actions, God acknowledges it.
 - (7) Look at repentance in the context of a marriage. You cheat on your spouse.
 - (8) How many times can you repent? How many of your sins are forgiven? Not a one-time thing. David & B, 2 Samuel 11-12.
4. 2:5-11 Being a Jew is not an escape-judgment card.
- B. 2:12-16 Not teaching salvation by works. Contrasting Jew and Gentile, being a doer of the law, not just knowing it enough.
- III. 2:17-29 Talking to self righteous Jews. Get's to Gentiles later.
- A. 2:17-24
- 1. 2:17-20 Not disputing these things.
 - 2. 2:21-23
 - a) You who say, "Jesus is #1 in my life," do you worship at the altar or sports? Of work? Of hobbies?
 - b) You who say, "Where He leads, I will follow." do you live in fear and make excuses?
 - c) If Jesus appeared right now, started walking toward the door, and said, "Follow me," what would you do? Get up and go? Ask him, "Where are we going? How long will we be gone? What are we going to do?"
 - d) It's too easy to become a pharisee in the name of right.
 - e) Self righteousness brings embarrassment to God. David & B, 2 Samuel 11-12 again.
 - f) Modern example. Press release from church in NC.
- B. 2:25-29 Survey. Outward expression of inward reality. Like baptism.
- IV. Wrap up
- A. Sometimes Christians need Jesus too.
 - B. Can't flirt with sin, nor with self righteousness which is also sin. Need God righteousness. Yes we have the truth but it is God's not ours. Back to 1:16-17.
 - C. Does that mean we should always have this downer sense of "I'm not worthy, I'm scum, guess I'll go eat works"? We aren't worthy, but God loves us anyway. **Have joy in that, just don't get self righteous about the sin or others. Pray for them out of love, not out of justice.**
 - D. Only possible by transforming power of the Spirit active in our daily lives. Only have the Spirit through Jesus. Gospel.