

Copyright © Two Journeys Ministry

Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

[www.twojourneys.org](http://www.twojourneys.org)

Please use in accordance with the copyright policy found at [twojourneys.org](http://twojourneys.org)

## **God's Warning to Unrepentant Hypocrites: What Are You Storing Up? Romans 2:1-6**

Illus. The stock market in the 1990's... constant emphasis on investment for the future

This passage today: every single human being on earth is either storing up eternal wrath or eternal glory... there is no middle ground

### I. Review

- A. The Gospel of God: Supernatural Power for Complete Salvation
- B. Righteousness of God: Both Our Greatest Problem AND Our Only Salvation
- C. Exchanging The Glory of God Brings The Wrath of God... 21 Sins

From a vocal group in the audience: "Right on, Paul... go get those rotten sinners!!"  
The religious hypocrite (Jews in Paul's day... church-goers in ours)

### II. Warning to the Self-Righteous Hypocrite

- A. "Spin doctors"
  - 1. Major new profession on the political scene
  - 2. Everyone wired to deal lightly with their own sins, darkly with those of others
  - 3. Paul takes on the self-righteous hypocrite
- B. The Scourge of Hypocrisy: Hated by Critics of the Church

"The church is full of self-righteous, 'holier than thou' hypocrites... why would I want to join that?" Judging others for the sin of hypocrisy!!!

1. Essence of hypocrisy judging in others what you excuse in yourself

- a. see a behavior pattern in others... condemn it as evil
- b. pride never allows you to see it in yourself... but it's there

**vs.1** *“You therefore have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.”*

Illus. Jonathan Edwards, Resolution #8: *“Resolved: I will let the knowledge of the failings of others promote nothing but shame in myself, and prove only an occasion of my confessing my own sins and misery to God.”*

2. Taking God's place: a hypocritical judge more righteous than the eternal judge

- a. “You're right, you know!!”

Illus. Honked at by a driver... the **Punitive Horn-Honk**

Usually, when we judge others, they HAVE sinned, and done something evil

**vs. 2** *“Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.”*

- b. BUT what about YOU???

**vs. 3** *“So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?”*

- c. YOU noticed the sin of others, and you're only a “mere man”
- d. GOD sees everything you ever do... how do you think you'll escape

3. The destruction of the principle of grace

- a. no possibility of grace for others... **“Off with their heads!!”**
- b. no need for grace for yourself... **“Sure, I do wrong things sometimes, but doesn't everybody? I'm only human!!”**

C. First Century Jews: A Damning Presumption

1. Overall structure:

- a. Romans 1 seems directed at Gentile sinners
- b. Romans 2 directed at Jewish self-righteous
- c. Romans 3 summary: “There is no difference between Jews & Gentile; for all have sinned and lack the glory of God.”

Therefore: Romans 2 usually seen as Paul’s word to the Jews

“We have the Law of Moses, we are the chosen people of God, we don’t need to be warned about Judgment Day!!”

## 2. Tertullian

*Dialogue with Trypho*: [Jewish opponent] “They who are the seed of Abraham according to the flesh shall in any case, even if they be sinners and unbelieving and disobedient towards God, share in the Kingdom.”

## 3. Same spirit as the Jews in John’s gospel

- a. John wanted to baptize them: initiation rite into Judaism
- b. Jesus commanded them to “Repent or perish”
- c. Jewish leaders claimed to be righteous... and that damned them before Jesus

***John 9:39-41 Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see, and those who see will become blind.” Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?” Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.”***

Greatest danger: Excusing your own sin while pridefully judging others

## III. God’s Response to Hypocrisy

A. God is Just: Judgment WILL Come

***vs. 3 “So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment?”***

B. God is Kind: Judgment Hasn’t Come Yet

***vs. 4 “Or do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you towards repentance?”***

1. Every day of life is evidence of the grace of God
2. Paul's language: "riches of his kindness, tolerance, and patience..."
  - a. why "riches"? Every Thanksgiving, we celebrate the bounty of this richness

***Matthew 5:45 "He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous."***

Illus. Power of God not for destruction but for life (cf. MacArthur, *Romans*, p. 80)

- At any given time, there are an average of 1800 storms in operation in the world
- The energy needed to generate those storms amounts to about 1.3 billion horsepower
- By comparison, the largest earth-moving machinery has just 420 horsepower, and requires hundreds of gallons of fuel per day to operate
- Just one of those storms, producing a rain of four inches over an area of 10,000 square miles, would require energy equivalent to 640 million tons of coal to evaporate enough water for such a rain
- To cool these vapors and collect them in clouds would take another 800 million hp of refrigeration working day & night for 100 days
- The average farmer in the state of Minnesota gets 407,510 gallons of rainwater per acre per year, "free of charge, of course"

b. "tolerance & patience"... simply put

***Psalm 103:10 "He does not treat us as our sins deserve..."***

Every day a sinner wakes up and takes his first step from bed is evidence of God's tolerance and patience... another day under the riches of God's long-suffering

Theol. Issue: The real issue is not "Why do some people die" but "Why does any sinner survive??"

***Luke 13:3 "[Those who died were not worse sinners than the ones who survived] I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."***

#### IV. God's Kindness is Purposeful: Leading You to Repentance

A. How God is Kind

1. Specific kindness: not bringing his wrath down immediately
2. Not dealing with us as our sins deserve... life goes on and on
3. God sends blessing after blessing on rebellious sinners

**vs. 4 “Or do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you towards repentance?”**

#### B. What God is Waiting For... Repentance

1. Deep understanding that sins of Romans 1 are theirs too
2. Yearning for forgiveness from God, mercy before His holy throne
3. Turning away from the sins that cause the wrath of God
4. Turning toward Christ, the only salvation from wrath

**2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance.”**

Illus. Scottish minister & the atheist; and did my esteemed opponent think he could exhaust the patience of God in a mere three minutes?

God waited... 120 years while Noah built the ark; 800 years for idolatrous Israel and Judah before He finally brought the curtain down; 2000 years since Christ...

God’s patience is purposeful: It leads you to a destination... repentance... but some people head the opposite way: contempt for God

#### C. Showing Contempt for God’s Patience

1. Resenting it deeply: “God’s kindness is actually weakness”

Illus.: Jewish theologians, Holocaust victims

2. Trivializing it generally: “It’s God’s trade”

German philosopher Heine: “God will forgive; after all, it’s his trade.”

3. Minimizing it personally: “I deserve a long life... my sins aren’t really that bad!”
4. Presuming on it daily: “[Yawn] Another day, another dollar!”

**2 Peter 3:4** *“Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation.”*

**Isaiah 56:12** *“Come,” each one cries, “let me get wine! Let us drink our fill of beer! And tomorrow will be like today, or even far better.”*

5. Squandering it sinfully: “God will forgive this one too!”

Matthew Henry: “There is in every willful sin a contempt for the goodness of God.”

D. Someday the time will run out

1. God’s patience does not wait forever!
2. “In due time, their foot will slip”

Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the hands of an angry God.”

**Deuteronomy 32:35** *“It is mine to avenge, I will repay. In due time, their foot will slip.”*

“The reason why they are not fallen already, and do not fall now, is only that God's appointed time is not come... **The observation from the words that I would now insist upon is this. “There is nothing that keeps wicked men at any one moment out of hell, but the mere pleasure of God”**”

3. There is a “day of salvation”... when that day is over, time will be gone forever

**2 Corinthians 6:2** *“I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.”*

V. Principles of God’s Righteous Judgment (vs. 5-6)

A. Stubborn Unrepentance Stores Up Wrath

**vs. 5** *“But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself...”*

1. God’s kindness is supposed to “lead you to repentance”
2. Unbeliever WILL NOT REPENT

a. “stubbornness” = **σκληροτης** ... hardness, stubborn resistance to persuasion

“Arteriosklerosis”... hardening; God’s daily kindness to us, His patience in not giving us what we truly deserve... for some people, it only hardens them

b. “unrepentant heart”... constant refusal to see their own sin, their need for Christ

3. Result: day after day, storing up the wrath of God

Illus. Huge static electricity discharge... lightning

Key: everyone on the face of the earth is storing up something

***Matthew 6:20 “Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”***

a. stubborn unrepentance stores up wrath day after day after day

b. persistence in faith-filled acts of righteousness stores up reward

B. The Wrath of God is Hidden, Will Be Revealed Later

***vs. 5 “...you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath when His righteous judgment will be revealed.”***

1. The daily accumulation of wrath in God’s book is SILENT

2. You hear nothing, see nothing... it just stores up day after day

3. God has a day of wrath in store for the future...

4. On that day, the great discharge will occur

C. Judgment Will Be ‘According to Deeds’

***vs. 6 “God will give to each person according to what he has done.”***

1. Judgment “According to deeds”

2. Constant teaching of Scripture

***Jeremiah 17:10 “I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve.”***

BUT... doesn’t this run contrary to “justification by faith alone”? We’ll discuss that more next week!!!

3. Every act brought under God’s judgment

***Matthew 12:36 “But I tell you that men will have to give an account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken, for by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”***

D. God’s Judgment Is Perfect

***vs. 2 “God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.”***

***vs. 5 “...the day of God’s wrath, when His righteous judgment will be revealed.”***

Everything perfectly and accurately recorded in God’s books. The Judge is perfect, holy, faithful and true... He will accept no bribes, nor listen to any plea bargains from crafty lawyers

1. No one will be able to talk back to God

***Romans 3:19 “...every mouth will be silenced, and the whole world held accountable before God.”***

***Job 9:3 “Though one wished to dispute with him, he could not answer him one time out of a thousand.”***

2. Unrepentant sinners will get only what they truly deserve
3. Angels will affirm every act of judgment

***Revelation 16:5 “You are just in these judgments, you who are and who were, the Holy One, because you have so judged.”***

4. At that moment, **hypocrites** who only could see the sins of others will get what they truly deserve: they will perish eternally
5. At that moment, **stubbornly unrepentant people** who never saw their need for Christ will get what they truly deserve: they will also perish eternally
6. At that moment, **all who have trusted in Christ alone**, repenting from their wickedness, renouncing any confidence in their own righteousness, clinging only to the Cross, will NOT get what they truly deserve but will be received freely by grace into heaven

## VI. An Urgent Word to All Categories of People

A. What We’ve Seen

- Greatest danger: “Romans 1:29-32 doesn’t apply to me...”



- “Spin doctors” twisting the truth of the Word
- Hypocrisy: arrogantly judging in others what we excuse in ourselves; both the Jews of that day and the “religious” of our day
- God’s two responses to hypocrisy: God is just, God is kind: judgment WILL come someday, but it hasn’t come yet!!
- God’s INCREDIBLY RICH KINDNESS: rain & sun, life day after day
- BUT God’s kindness is purposeful... it leads, beckons you to repentance; turning away from sin, turning toward God’s grace in Christ
- Yet, many show contempt for God’s kindness... they despise it and think nothing of it
- God’s justice: principles of God’s judgment: 1) stubborn unrepentance stores up wrath every day; 2) the wrath of God is hidden now, but will be revealed later; 3) God’s judgment will be according to our deeds; 4) God’s judgment will be perfectly righteous

#### B. An Urgent Word of Warning

1. This is the ultimate issue in life... nothing could be more relevant or pressing
2. This passage clearly teaches the reality of both heaven & hell
3. You must be certain of your own destination

#### To All People

1. Children: “Someday you are going to die...”
2. Teenagers: “Remember your Creator in the days of your youth...”
3. Married Couples & people in their prime: Living for earthly pleasures
4. Aged: Very soon, this question will not be merely academic