

RUSH TO JUDGMENT Romans 2:1-16

Int: Whom did Paul address in these verses? Jew? Moral Gentiles? Both? When the best interpreters divide, it is best not to be dogmatic. What the apostle revealed about the principles of Judgment Day is much more important than whom he spoke about. Paul described God's judgment on the last day, Judgment Day, as

FAIR 2:1-3

In judging others a man condemns himself because he commits the very sins he judges in others. He does not live by his own standards. Judging boomerangs on the human judge.

But God's judgment is absolutely fair because he judges everybody by the truth (2:2). There is not one set of standards for one group and a different set for another. His judgment hews to the line of truth as he knows it! If the sin is the same, so is the judgment (2:3).

SURE 2:4-5

No one can afford to trade on the goodness of God. Despite his goodness, Judgment Day is certain. In fact, God intends his lenience to be creative, i.e. to lead men to repent (2:4). However, kindness must not be mistaken for weakness. The unrepentant just store up wrath like interest on an unpaid debt against the final Judgment Day.

IMPARTIAL 2:6-15

God does not play favorites (2:11). He will pay off each person according to his works (2:6). Jews thought God would let them off lightly like a father but discipline the heathen heavily like a stern king (*Wisdom of Solomon* 11:10; 12:22). On the contrary, God judges every man impartially, Jew or Gentile, not by where he is but by where he is facing, not by distance but by direction (2:7-10).

Paul began and ended with the consequences of "working the good through to a result." He sandwiched between the consequences of "working the bad through to a result." To those who seek the glory of becoming like Jesus, the honor of God's approval, and the incorruption of resurrection to life eternal, God will give life, glory, honor and peace. To those who spend their lives in self-seeking, rebellion and evil, he will give only wrath, indignation, trouble and distress. This is not salvation by works. He gives good to those who SEEK it, not earn it or deserve it.

Some Jews thought they were more ready for judgment than the heathen because they had heard the word of God and knew what the Bible said. But to hear and not do is no better than not to hear (2:13).

THOROUGH 2:16

Not only public actions but deeds done in darkness and hidden from all human eyes will come into judgment on that day. On Judgment Day God will rip away all masks, ransack every closet, and lay bare all the cold, naked facts of each man's life!