

SUFFICIENT CAUSE FOR JUDGMENT

Romans 2:1-16

Have you tried making sense of trends on Wall Street?

Newscaster: "On Wall Street today, news of lower interest rates sent market up, but fear those rates would be inflationary sent market down, until hope lower rates might stimulate economy pushed market up, but fear overheated economy leads to higher interest rates took over."

Strange, book about "good news" starts with bad news.

**If we don't understand how bad off we are,
we'll never understand the good news!**

Ch. 1: State of Race <= result of rejecting God

Problem isn't *perversity*; that's *result* of the choice.

Problem: **rejecting GOD=> to get Him out of our life!**

After ch. 1, some of us may have breathed sigh of relief

Aren't you glad WE aren't like PAGANS in Rom. 1?

If we respond: "Glad I'm not like them," we miss point!

"Having it my way!" => leads to evil, ugly picture!

Rm 2 –instead of man at his worst => man at his best.

What about us-good people who don't live like they do?

J. Vernon McGee: "Jumping to Catalina"

Rom 2: even people who look down at others & condemn conduct
in Rom 1, **WE ALL** have problem:

Rom 2-3: even *religious* people are guilty

We may not be as bad as we could be,

but we're ALL as bad off as we could be!

ALL have sufficient cause for judgment by holy God!

GOD'S CRITERIA FOR JUDGMENT 2:1-16

3 bases: #1 God's judgment based on our conscience 1-5 1 [p.1554] *"You 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."*

God judges according to understanding of right & wrong. When we criticize others for what *they* do, we condemn ourselves.

God judges us based on standards *we* use to judge *others*. *Our own words will do!*

Criteria we use to judge others condemns us.

2 *"We know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth."*

If we can't keep standards we've set up, how will we be able to keep those God has established.

3 *"When you, a mere man, pass judgment on them & do the same things, do you think you'll escape God's judgment*

There's no getting away with it—no plea bargaining!

Reason God hasn't *already* judged us: give us chance to turn to Him. **4** *"Do you show contempt*

for the riches of his kindness, tolerance & patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance

Don't misinterpret God's patience!

He isn't letting people get away with something.

Pet.: *God's in no hurry; waiting 1000 yr is like a day.*

He's giving us time to turn back to Him.

But, make no mistake about it—Payday *WILL* come!
Hard hearts will bring us to judgment! 5 “Because of your stubbornness & unrepentant heart, you’re storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.”

Wrath revealed against pagan humanity is also directed at people who look down our noses at “those horrible people,” while disobeying God & hardening our heart.

On day when God reveals His wrath, *ALL* will come under His wrath! We *ALL* stand condemned!

**Our conscience is sufficient basis
 to condemn us before God’s judgment!**

#2 God's judgment is based on our actions 6-11

“God will give to each person **according to what he has done**.
⁷To those who **by persistence in doing good** seek glory, honor & immortality, he will give eternal life. ⁸But for those who are self-seeking & reject the truth & follow evil, there will be wrath & anger. ⁹There will be trouble & distress for every human being who **does evil**: ^{1st} for the Jew, then for the Gentile; ¹⁰but glory, honor & peace for everyone who **does good**: ^{1st} for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹¹For **God does not show favoritism.**”

Those who do good receive eternal life;

Those who do evil are condemned.

God’s standard is perfection!

Our problem: we don't do good!

God *never* plays favorites

If God judges us based on our rules, **we're guilty!**

If God judges based on our performance, **we're guilty!**

#3 God's judgment is based on light recei-ved 12-

16 **12-13** *"All who sin apart from [the] law will also perish apart from [the] law, & all who sin under [the] law will be judged by [the] law. ¹³For it is not those who hear [the] law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey [the] law who will be declared righteous."*

People who never hear law: stand condemned

People who hear it all their life: stand condemned

Jews assume privileged position makes them better

Possessing law does no good unless we **DO** what it says

People who know & disobey earn judgment.

People who don't know & obey earn life.

When we hear these words, we're perplexed.

Can we receive eternal life by obeying the law?

Yes! All we have to do is obey **all** of it, **all** the time!

So, how many of us qualify?

Law shows guilt! => **We're ALL lawbreakers!**

Knowing God's law isn't enough to save us

All know enough about law to condemn us.

PEOPLE WHO ARE JUST IN GOD'S SIGHT

AREN'T HEARERS OF LAW;

BUT DOERS OF THE LAW

14-15 *"When Gentiles, who do not have [the] law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves,*

even though they do not have [the] law. ¹⁵They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.”

People with little knowledge of God are judged by how we respond to what we do know

God has written enough in our heart for all people to be aware of our sin.

Light we have is sufficient to condemn us.

No one has an excuse!

We'll all stand guilty before Him, for *no one* does good!

16 *“This will take place on day when God will judge men’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.”*

Not just deeds, but even secret thoughts reveal problem!

IRS letter: man hadn't slept well for 30 yr since cheating on taxes, enclosed 5 \$100 bills.

“If I don’t sleep better, I’ll send the rest.”

We all come up short!

**Though we aren’t as bad as we could be,
we’re ALL as bad off as we could be!**

We don’t measure up to our own standards!

We don’t live by light we’ve received

We all have sufficient guilt for judgment!

HOW SHOULD THIS TRUTH AFFECT OUR LIFE?

1) Makes us realize *we’ll never make it on our own.*

It should drive us to Jesus!

2) Makes us realize *we have no basis for boasting.*

We should remember where we've come from!

3) We should *respond with gratitude;*

what we receive is unmerited. It's gift of God

Paul concludes: "*as my gospel declares.*"

This agrees with "**good news**" Paul proclaims.

It's good news that we can't make it!

=>That news **drives us to Jesus!**

What we could never pay, Jesus paid for us.

Calvary covers it all—my past with its sin and stain.

My guilt and despair, Jesus took on Him there.

So that now, Calvary covers it all.

Has Calvary covered it all for you?

Or are you still trying to do it yourself?

Why not receive gift Jesus wants to give us? –trusting Him