



KEY THOUGHTS

- Dr. Mark Fairchild, Professor of Bible at Huntington University in Indiana, "The book of Romans is Paul's most theological letter of them all, 16 chapters in length, and that book has had the greatest impact upon western civilization as Europe and America, than any other book that has ever been written."
- Paul laid out a logical presentation of what sin has done and how guilty we find ourselves. Here are the summaries of this section of Romans 2 – 3:20:
- Romans 2:1-3 – STOP judging
 - Judging others has been one of the church's most troublesome error, even from the beginning, and certainly down to our time.
 - Why? Our biggest blind spot is related to US and our families
 - Plus, we stand up for what's right, therefore seems like position we naturally take is "I'm right...you're wrong."
 - Today is a push against us judging others, thinking our position is better than theirs.
 - We do that with opposing political parties, other countries, different churches even.
- Romans 2:5-10 – Deeds matter. So our logic tells us that God certainly looks favorably on our good deeds. Especially since our good deeds are at least better than most.
- Romans 2:11-29 – Judgment falls regardless of spiritual background
 - Gentiles have the Law written in their hearts to account for
 - Jews have struggle of teaching Law to others but not to themselves
- To "be right" we acknowledge the need to "appear right"
 - We all tend to put on appearances that we're OK with the Lord. So we stop that "bad habit" (or at least improve), say we're sorry, get back to church, then our behavior will be acceptable.
 - It's like setting a table for us and the Lord. Make it look nice.
- (Romans 3:1-8 – God's goodness shines even in our evil)
- Romans 3:9-20 – Your finely set table is trash
 - Isaiah 64:6 – For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment...

- We bring absolutely nothing good to the table. Why would the Lord want to eat off of that? Why would we?
- It really doesn't matter how nice your dinnerware is when it's broken in a pile.
- When you fall under God's conviction, what other people are doing is irrelevant – if you're comparing yourself to others, **THAT IS NOT GOD YOU ARE LISTENING TO.**
- Back to Romans 2:4 – Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?
- We are in deep, deep need for a good, good Savior!

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 1:18-32

PRACTICAL AND REFLECTION

Ask yourself these questions and reflect this week

- Where does your wisdom reside?
- What might be pulling me away from God's wisdom and truth?