

**“*The Need of the Moralist*”**

(Romans 2:1-16; April 21st, 2024)

Subtitled “***Principles of God’s Judgment***”

One of the major themes in the book of Romans is that of the condemned sinner. Having demonstrated the sinfulness of the immoral pagan (1:18-32), Paul presents his case against the religious moralist – Jew OR Gentile- by cataloging six principles that govern God’s judgment. He illustrates this point in 6 ways. The sinner is…

1. Condemned by his own ***judgment*** (vs. 1)
2. Condemned according to ***truth*** (vss. 2-3)
3. Condemned by ***guilt*** (vss. 4-5)
4. Condemned according to ***works*** (vss. 6-10)
5. Condemned without ***impartiality*** (Respect of persons) - vss. 11-15)
6. Condemned by ***motive*** (v. 16)

The “***moralist”*** is condemned…

1. - Condemned by his own **JUDGMENT – (vs. 1)**

***Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.***

***For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? (Hebrews 10: 26-29; NKJV)***

1. - Condemned according to ***truth*** (**vss. 2-3)**

***But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things***. ***And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?***

***“Let God be found true, though every man be found a liar.”*** ***(Romans 3:4)***

***For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat on the throne judging in righteousness. He shall judge the world in righteousness, and He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness. (Psalm 9:4, 8; NKJV)***

***And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4:13; NKJV)***

***“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. (Matthew 23:27; NKJV)***

1. **-** Condemned by ***guilt (vss. 4-5)***

***Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,***

***For the word of the Lord is right, and all His work is done in truth. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. (Psalm 33:4-5; NKJV)***

***I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36: 26; NKJV)***

1. Condemned according to ***works*** (**vss. 6-10)**

***…who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.***

***And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. (Revelation 20:12-13; NKJV)***

***So, the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” (Genesis 4:6-7; NKJV)***

1. ondemned without ***impartiality*** (Respect of persons) **(vss. 11-15)**

***For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them).***

***But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.***

***Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. (Acts 10:34-35; NKJV)***

***And that servant who knew his master’s will and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. (Luke 12:47-48; NKJV)***

There are four reasons why the heathen are lost…

* **FIRST** – as already noted, their rejection of their knowledge of God available through ***CREATION*** condemns them.
* **SECOND** – as the apostle now points out, their ***CONDUCT,*** based on the knowledge of the Law written in their hearts, condemns them. The fact that many people have done very ethically good things in their lives proves that they had the knowledge of God in their hearts.
* **THIRD** – the heathen are condemned because of ***CONSCIENCE.*** Gentiles who do not have the privilege of knowing God’s law nevertheless have a conscience bearing witness to **HIS** law.
* **FOURTH** – the heathen are lost because of their ***CONTEMPLATION***, their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them. This natural faculty obviously is closely related to conscience. Building on the instinctive knowledge of right and wrong that the conscience provides, even unbelievers have the obvious ability to determine that certain things are basically right or wrong.

***“You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13; NKJV).***

1. Condemned by ***motive*** (**v. 16**)

***…in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.***

***“As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.” (I Chronicles 28:9; NKJV)***