

## Romans 2:1-11 “Some eternity surprises”

“You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. <sup>2</sup> Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. <sup>3</sup> So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment?

“<sup>4</sup> Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? <sup>5</sup> But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. <sup>6</sup> God ‘will repay each person according to what he has done.’ <sup>7</sup> To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. <sup>8</sup> But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. <sup>9</sup> There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; <sup>10</sup> but glory, honor and peace for

everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>11</sup> For God does not show favoritism.”

**Most of us remember being surprised by things when we were kids.**

**This happens to children because of their limited experience**

You know the old saying: “Life is full of surprises.”

**My parents were not worldly people.**

I can’t recall hearing either my mother or my father utter one word of profanity.

**If they swore, they never did it around me.**

**They also didn’t drink or smoke.**

According to ministers I heard in my youth, the major trespasses consisted of drinking, smoking, and cursing.

**The following train of logic led me to a conclusion (about age nine) while playing near my parents’ house in Hoisington, KS:**

**“Only righteous people go to heaven.”**

**Because smoking, drinking, and swearing constitute major sins, folks, who tittle, light up, or cuss will not make it to heaven.**

Most men smoked and I often heard them curse.

**I rarely saw women smoking.**

**No woman I knew drank or swore.**



I naively supposed, therefore, that heaven will be comprised almost exclusively of women.

**Hell will be heavily populated with guys.**

**As a result, some of my big early surprises included:**

- **First, eventually meeting many women who drank, smoked, and cursed;**
- **Second, learning that women committed many other sins besides "the big three."**

**Another big surprise came when I realized how quickly I got caught up in wrongdoing.**

**Somewhere my friend Marlin and I obtained a cigarette and were trying to light it.**

We hid in the alley near an old garage.

**Recall that I never ever heard either my mom or my dad utter a word of profanity?**

**They strongly discouraged us from cussing, too.**

**What I feared wasn't a spanking; it was having my mouth scoured with soap.**

**As my friend and I tried to "light up," two things thwarted our alley effort.**

**One, the same Kansas wind that blew Dorothy and Toto around kept blowing out our matches.**

Two, and more frustrating, some



territorial-minded neighbors' dogs either heard us or caught our scent.

Those feisty canines detected us and kept barking.

**I was sure we'd be found out.**

**"Those damned dogs!"** I cursed.

How easily the cussing came amazed me.

**We never got our prize lighted that day.**

**Life is filled with surprises, isn't it?**

**Your and my biggest surprise, however, might not be during this life.**

The thesis of our text may, in fact, be:

**"The great surprises death might bring."**

**Our text refers to the likelihood of**

**Judgment Day surprises for you and me.**

**"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. Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere person, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?"**

**Judgment Day isn't the time to be caught unawares.**

That first eternity moment will be too late.

**What surprise might be in store for us?  
Can we avoid being disappointed that day?  
"A person is destined to die once, and after that  
to face judgment" Hebrews 9:27.**

**Romans one helps us prepare for the Judgment.**

Everyone should be familiar with that chapter.

**The United States Constitution is an  
important document for Americans.**

All Americans should know what it says.

As important as the U.S. Constitution  
and the Bill of Rights are, knowing  
God's will is far more vital.

**These facts about Romans one might amaze you.  
Do you know that Lectionary readings used by  
major denominations avoid most of Romans one?**

The Lectionary readings that I've seen include  
the first seven verses, but then skip 8 through 15.

They incorporate verses 16 and 17, but then  
skip the rest of the chapter, i.e. verses 18-32.

If you learn only the Lectionary verses, you will  
know less than a third of Romans chapter one.

You will never see or hear the other two thirds.

**The Lectionary people claim they want you to  
hear the Good News about Christ:**

**You often hear vss. 16 and 17:**

**"I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the  
power of God for the salvation of everyone who  
believes . . ."**

But if you don't read or hear verses 8-15 and  
18-31, you miss crucial info about God's will.

**It's like not putting a poison  
label on a bleach bottle.**



**Why did the folks who selected the Lectionary  
readings avoid the majority of Romans one?**

**What parts did they neglect?**

**Does Romans one contain info some folks  
don't want you to hear?**

Strong evidence leads me to that conclusion.

Some evidently don't want you to hear all the truth.

I've spoken before of some promotional literature  
a major denomination sent me.

**It contained an assertion you often hear.**

Ministers and other prominent folks say it:

**"God loves you just the way you are."**

That statement sounds nice, but it misrepresents  
what the Bible says.

**Nothing in Romans teaches that idea.**

**Jesus never taught that.**

No true prophet ever said that.

Anyone who thinks that you don't need to change anything in your life to please God and that

**"God loves you just the way you are,"**

better prepare for a terrible surprise.

Jesus' first word to people who came to hear him was **"Repent!"**

**Jesus died to forgive our sin, but we have to want to come clean and stay clean.**

**That means: Change our lives!**

**"Journalists say a thing they know isn't true in the hope that if they keep saying it long enough it will be true."<sup>1</sup>**

**Journalists aren't alone in promoting that.**

**Many preachers, professors, politicians and moralists do the same thing.**

**As far as I know, Lectionary readings end at 1:17.**

Some evidently don't want you knowing this (1:18):

**"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness . . ."**

**Surprise! Surprise!**

**The bad news they fail to tell you is:**

**God doesn't unendingly love people.**

**God is love, but He gets angry—really angry.**

**What upsets God?**

He gets angry when people suppress the truth.

**In recent months, people around the world have been suffering a huge Covid19 scare.**

Imagine on all the continents, the virus spreading to every city, town, and village.

Suppose at great risk to his life, a wealthy doctor finds a Covid19 cure.

**He makes the cure available for free so every threatened person can receive it.**

The doctor prepares and sends millions of free doses of the cure.

**But suppose some of those who distribute the cure want to make money off of it, and charge people hefty prices.**

Others decide to withhold the cure from certain groups because they don't like them.

**Certain politicians also refuse to admit that Covid19 has spread to regions they control.**

**"We don't have a problem, here,"** they say.

**Millions die, not for lack of a cure, but because certain people suppressed the truth about it.**

**Would those actions anger you?**



<sup>1</sup> *The Title*, Enoch Arnold Bennett 1867-1931

**Shouldn't that doctor be angry with those who don't distribute his free cure?**

**For various reasons, some folks suppress the truth about God.**

**God's Good news of Jesus powerfully changes lives right now and gives people a future.**

**Jesus has helped me immeasurably and he continues to assist me.**

**He's changed my life in many ways.**

**I've had to change much of my behavior and I'm still working on other misbehavior.**

**God helps all who listen and willingly change.**

**Consider Romans 1: 18 once more:**

**“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness . . .”**

**I've read this verse hundreds of times.**

**Some time back as I read it, something about the phrase: “the wrath of God is being revealed” caught my attention.**

**The expression; “is being revealed” sounds as if it is happening at this moment, doesn't it?**

**One day after we drove into the garage, Norma noticed that our new cat's feeder was empty.**

**Norma likes to make sure our animals eat well.**

**She asked if I would fill the cat's feeder.**

**Our cat eats like a starving teenager.**

**“I shall take care of it,” I said.**

**“Shall” is future tense, isn't it?**

**At least three different times, Norma asked me about feeding the cat.**

**Each time I promised: “I shall do it.”**

**At bed time Norma asked once more; I told her that I hadn't fed the cat.**

**I soon heard Norma going out the door into the garage, and I knew, “The cat is being fed.”**

**Some folks have trouble explaining what “is” is.**

**At the time I was thinking: The cat is being fed, Norma was that instant feeding the cat. Is was is.**

**You'll be pleased, but not surprised to know: Norma wasn't angry about my dilatory attention to the cat.**



**So what does Romans 1:18 mean when it says: “the wrath of God is being revealed”?<sup>2</sup>**

**Greek verbs and participles have nuances that are hard to express in English.**

**Does the NIV correctly state what Paul meant?**

**It comes about as close as you can get in English.**

**“The wrath of God is being revealed”**

**means precisely what life experience tells us.**

<sup>2</sup> The KJV reads: “is revealed.”

The *Old Testament* teaches, Jesus warned us, and the *Book of Revelation* predicts:

**In the Judgment, God will punish all sin.**

**Yet at times, God’s judgment falls immediately on people who are sinning.**

**You probably know about the paralyzed man, whom Jesus healed.**

**For nearly four decades, he’d been confined to a mat.**

**Folks tend to forget what Jesus later told this man whom he’d cured only hours before.**

Not long after Jesus healed him and sent him off carrying his mat, Jesus ran into him again.

**He said to the guy “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.”<sup>3</sup>**

We don’t know what the man did, but it sounds as if some sin caused his paralysis 38 years prior.

Jesus warned him: **“You start doing that again, something more terrible will happen to you than forty years of begging flat on a mat.”**

**I’ve tried to imagine what type of sin caused Jesus to make this comment.**

**Was the man a pickpocket?**

**Did someone “deck” him the first time sending him to his mat? After Jesus cured him, did he restart his old “trade”?**



If he got caught again, his punishment might be worse than paralysis.

**Please don’t misunderstand.**

I’m not saying we can connect every illness or malady to a person’s sin.

Innocent babies often become sick; they have done nothing to deserve it.

Many are born with genetic weaknesses that bring chronic ailments.

**We have to use extreme caution about making judgments concerning these things.**

Jesus could distinguish; we cannot.

**But some sins result in immediate consequences.**

Coroners and medical examiners confirm that truth every day.

**Drink too much and you’ll likely “kill” your liver.**

**Do you think you’ll ever see that warning printed on every whisky bottle, beer can, and wine cooler?**

Societies suppress other facts about cause and effect.

**Paul saw it happening in his own time.**

<sup>3</sup> John 5:1-17, verse 14 NIV

**I need to move quickly to some vital points:  
The people of the world like to be honored as  
wise and smart.**

**Many try to suppress knowledge of God.  
"although they knew God, they neither glorified  
him as God nor gave thanks to him . . ." (1:21).**

**You see examples of it every day:**

- Current society doesn't like for us to glorify God.
- They don't want us to publicly pray either.

**In later verses, Paul wrote of other sins:**

**You can almost hear all the church and  
religious people standing and cheering:**

**"Go get 'em, Paul!"**

**It's as though Paul suddenly turned to all of us  
folks cheering on the sidelines, pointed his finger  
and said: "Now we know that God's judgment  
against those who do such things is based on  
truth. <sup>3</sup> So when you, a mere person, pass  
judgment on them and yet do the same things, do  
you think you will escape God's judgment?"**

**God's Word says: Be careful of  
judging others.**

**Why?**

**Because nearly everyone is  
guilty of something.**

**No one measures up to God's standards.**



**When we judge others and are guilty ourselves,  
do you think we'll escape God's judgment?**

**Prepare against any Judgment Day surprises.**

Read all of Romans one and the following chapters:

**1 Corinthians 5, 6, Galatians 5, 6**

**1 John 1-5, Revelation 21.**

These chapters describe God's will concerning  
behavior which our society advocates and practices  
more and more openly,  
but for which God holds us accountable.

**These chapters also include actions of which  
many so-called Christians are terribly guilty:  
greed, bitterness, hate, gossip, cliquishness,  
fearfulness, and cowardice.**

**If we act in ways that displease God, that don't  
measure to Jesus' standards, we need to change.**

- **Judgment belongs to the Lord.**
- **He'll judge each of us according to our sins.**
- **Our hope and faith must be in God;**
- **We love because he first loved us in Christ.**

Bob Blair  
PO Box 176  
Cleghorn, IA 51014

**[www.robertblairbooks.com](http://www.robertblairbooks.com)**