

Romans 1:18-21 Paul just defined how God grows our faith, that that faith causes God to count us as righteous, and in the very next verse Paul tells us that rebel against this concept will be responsible for God's wrath upon them. Because ⁽¹⁹⁾ all are born with: (A) a sin nature, but also (B) a knowledge that God exists and an inner force field that draws us to a relationship with Him (the strength of which ⁽²¹⁾ increases or decreases as we grow depending on whether we "search" or "ignore" Him.

Romans 1:22 Because of going against what/who God is and are blinded God let them believe the lie. And now that they believe the lie

Romans 1:23 They live in a world/mindset that worships any, or every, thing but God!

Romans 1:24-25: (Repeat of 22+23): This is so important that Paul - 1 repeats it. Basically if you fall for the lie, IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT!

Romans 1:26-27: The natural attraction of relationships also is defiled.

Romans 1:28-32: We are a created vessel of Gods! This vessel

was designed to carry the Holy Spirit who is the ever increasing knowledge of God. If we are not being filled (not "sealed"; there's a difference) with the Holy Spirit our bodies become a vacuum for all sorts of ungodly things. Of course the opposite is also true: If we are filled with the Holy Spirit then there is no room for ungodly things to fit in our vessel! Read Matthew 12:43-45

(Explanation: After the person (not the Holy Spirit) decides to change his lifestyle the demon leaves, he goes and seeks another to inhabit. After finding no where to reside he returns hoping the person is back to his old ways. The persons "vessel" is empty, swept, and put in order (he goes to church, volunteers, has stopped swearing and no longer tail gates the old guy in the left lane doing 50) and so the demon tells 7 other demons who are seeking a new apartment, "hey guys come on, my old mans place is all set up and now there is plenty of room for all of us."

(Food for thought :) How could the man have dealt with the demon he wanted gone? What would that have looked like?

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Romans 1:32 (cont) notice the very last sentence: "...but also

approve of those who practice them." We must love the sinner, but we must never approve (give our blessing) of the sin. If we vote someone in to office who approves of abortion, euthanasia, gays playing in womens sports, children mutilation, hates Israel or even hates God then we are also guilty. If we march in the latest Equity Inclusion, Diversity protest we are guilty.

Romans 2:1-3 (paraphrasing): "For heavens sake, don't be a judgmental hypocrite." Don't point at a persons splinter when you can't even turn your head because of the log that is embedded in your own eye. We all fall short of the glory of God, at least I do. Sometimes I judge. Picture this: A young mom is at the airport and her 3 young children are running around screaming, throwing stuff and fighting over a box of cookies that their mother gave them. She just sits there and does nothing to tame her little wild ones. After a short while of this an elderly man comes over and snipes "Hey ladie can't you control your kids?" She replies, "I'm sorry, my husband was on a business trip and was killed in a bus accident yesterday. We are going to claim his body."

When the Holy Spirit nudges me and says, "Hey Tom, your being judgemental", I always try to retract my judgement, thinking: I have no clue what might be going on in their life. Thinking: How could I possibly help their situation?

Romans 2:4 (again, paraphrasing): "Do you despise/judge Gods patience? His goodness? Do you not realize He's working on bringing about repentance on ALL?"

Romans 2:5-11: If you notice this Pauline sentence seeming breaks his record for length. (Exactly 117 words long) But there is so much truth in this one sentence (just like Romans 1:1-4) that we must break it down:

"But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart" (because you've chosen to have a hardened heart) "you are treasuring up for yourself

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wrath"... (since you have rejected Christ, you will bare your own

penalty - The Great White Throne judgment - Revelation 20:11-15 note this is the exact opposite of how God deals with believers: Believers works done in God are rewarded, their other works are vaporized - 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 contrarily un-believers will have all of their works done that were noble discarded while all of their unrighteous works done will be punished.)... "and revelation of the righteous judgement of God"... (oddly or "Godly" enough that was last Sunday's sermon!?!?), "who will render to each one according to his deeds; eternal life to those who by patient continuance"... (walk in God through Christ) in doing good seek for "(look forward to)" glory, honor and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking (live for themselves and not for God) and do not obey the truth (rejected the One and Only Truthgiver), but obey unrighteousness - indignation and wrath (follow the ways of the prince of this world), tribulation and anguish on every soul of man who does evil (this is true for every person who has never accepted Jesus during their lifetime) of the Jew first and also of the Greek (the Jews of Jesus day rejected Him first, so they get dealt their punishment first, then the rest of the non-believers).

Notice there is no middle category! Jesus meant every word that He said (or had the ⁶⁶ writers of His Word write when the Holy Spirit guided them). So when He says, "You are either for Me or you are against Me" He means it!

Remember: God gave up everything that was precious to Him (His Son) and so those who reject His offer must pay! Eternally!

The eternal justice will fit the severity of the rejection. For example: The judgement that will come to those who lived in Tyre and Sidon... will be less severe than those who lived in Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum because Jesus and His disciples preached there: Luke 10:13-16