

Marvel not, you must be born-again.

Romans 1:21–24 (ESV)

²¹For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

²²Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

²⁴Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves,

The desire for sin in the flesh over time will harden hearts to the point where people choose to ignore God. They are calloused.

Meanwhile, many people like to claim that they are in good shape with God because they are not as bad as some others.

Without the righteousness of Jesus Christ covering our sin, no one would be able to step into heaven.

There are many very “religious people’ and “good people” that are tainted with sin, just as the people who never step foot into a church, and even the people that are “openly bad.’

1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Chapter 2 addresses those who choose to walk “in their own goodness” outside of being born again. It will show us that they are all sinners regardless of their own perception.

1. Listening to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit- (The Word of God speaks to the heart of every person and the Holy Spirit convicts the soul of the truth.)

Romans 2:1–5 (ESV)

¹Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

²We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.

³Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?

⁴Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

⁵But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.

- a.) Every person is born into sin since Adam, even if they choose not to believe it.

John 3:16–18 (ESV)

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

¹⁸**Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**

- You can go to church, do good deeds, be a great employee, incredible spouse, be the “person of the year”, or be baptized and still be a sinner that will stand before God in judgement.
- b.) In verse 1, it leaves no one out. (No one has an excuse for not being lost in sin.)
- c.) Really, when you look at chapter 1 and how man is exposed to the truth of God and yet many ignore **is the reason why Christians should desire to share the gospel.**
- A murderer, or those mistaken in sexual identity are no more a sinner than any other person. (Jesus’ salvation is the difference.) We talked Wednesday, about the junk room of the soul.
- d.) Every person will stand before the God who knows about our “junk room.”

Acts 17:30–31 (ESV)

³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

- Whether someone is outwardly very sinful, the entire being is under God’s gaze. He sees the inside. (Many look good outwardly and like to think it makes them different than the one who isn’t.)

Jeremiah 17:9–10 (KJV (WS))

⁹The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

¹⁰I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

- e.) God making a way for salvation should move all to repentance! (Shane, tailgate story)

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, and 29-34. **(Baptized makes statement dead to the world, raised in newness of life.)**

- If Christ did not save us, why not sin? (Why any laws?) If you can get away with it....
 - Everyone will stand before Jesus in judgement. (Saved for rewards, lost to show that works can’t earn righteousness.)
2. People who stand before God by their good works will answer for their own life- (No one else’s life has any bearing on the one standing in judgement.)

Romans 2:6–11 (ESV)

⁶He will render to each one according to his works:

⁷to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;

⁸but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

⁹There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek,

¹⁰but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.

¹¹For God shows no partiality.

- We all serve God on our own two feet and stand before Him the same.

Revelation 20:12–15 (ESV)

¹²And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened.

Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

¹³And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.

¹⁴Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

¹⁵And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- Who are the dead in this picture? (The ones who were not saved.)
 - a.) If a person went through life without sin, would they be ok in this judgement? (Yes, this is what Paul is saying.) **But do you see this happening? No. Without Christ, impossible.**

Romans 2:11–13 (ESV)

¹¹For God shows no partiality.

¹²For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.

¹³For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.

- b.) God is not a respecter of persons. (All are equal, with the equal free will choice.)
- c.) The Law is the criterion, not church, baptism, our goodness.)
- d.) Thou shalt and thou shalt not is not possible, it demonstrates the righteousness of God.

Romans 2:15–16 (ESV)

¹⁵They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them

¹⁶on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

- When you are wronged, how do you feel? Why?
- People know not to kill, lie, adultery? (Everyone) Yet...
- Do you want your junk room exposed? (It will be, and the **criterion for those who haven't been born again, will be their good works outwardly and inwardly.**)

Conclusion

Israel was a light, but it still had people depend on their own ability instead of faith in the Messiah's ability to redeem them.

- If you have heard the Word, you too should know better.

Romans 2:28–29 (ESV)

²⁸For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical.

²⁹But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

- Outward demonstration and behaviors cannot save.
- Jesus said in John 3 to a priest and expert of the Law, “Marvel not, you must be born again.”!
- An inward work of God. (By His love for us, and His grace and mercy.)

Romans 5:8 (ESV)

⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:8–12 (ESV)

⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”

¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.