



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Romans 2:1-16; 3:19-20
- Galatians 2:16; 3:10-12
- Leviticus 18:1-5

## VERNACULAR

- Hypocrisy
- Judgement
- Law

## SEED:

“(for **not the hearers of the law** are just in the sight of God, **but the doers of the law** will be justified;” Romans 2:13 NKJV

“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. **Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**” Romans 3:19-20 NKJV

## FRUIT:

“knowing that a **man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ **and not by the works of**

**the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified."**

Galatians 2:16 NKJV

**"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."**

But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for **"the just shall live by faith."** Yet the law is not of faith, but **"the man who does them shall live by them."**" Galatians 3:10-12 NKJV

## **NARRATIVE FOR TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: ROMANS 2:1-16**

**Last week in [In the Image of God](#) (Romans 1:18-32)...** As we've learned, the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel of Christ and now we see that those who suppress the truth of God are in big trouble. And we will soon see that it is not just the gospel, but the very nature of God that has been shown to these deniers. How exactly did God reveal Himself? He manifested it inside of them! And how did He do that? At creation, He did something so that all of mankind would recognize who He was, the one and only God. He created man in His own image. And He did so in such a way that no person, at any time in history, no matter their culture, creed, place of origin, heritage, or nationality, could use as the excuse that, "They weren't shown; no one told them!"

What is really happening when someone doesn't recognize the one true God, or believes there is no God, or worships a false god, or prefers many gods, or says he believes there is a god, but he's just not certain which one is real? Deep down inside, they do know who He is. They just refuse to glorify Him. If you are one of them, this is the warning. Do that too long and God will turn you over to your depraved thoughts. In other words, the price of your foolishness is that the natural light in your heart will grow dim and eventually turn black. From there you'll be apt to worship just about anything: man, animals, and even insects!

Once you are committed to believing this lie about God, you will be open to worshiping anything, even inanimate objects. And the result is that you will become obsessed with lust, especially sexual lust. This could potentially manifest in every type of sexual perversion; gender confusion being chief among them. If you refuse to acknowledge God, your debased mind will lead to dark places and sexual immorality of every type. And then gender confusion and sexual sin become the gateway to every other type of iniquity. Don't be fooled; God's righteous judgment is coming against all sin. And even worse than those trapped in their sin are those who approve of such futile thoughts, vile passions, and lustful behaviors. None of these players will escape God's wrath, but the hottest fire is reserved for those who promote such depravity.

**This week in Romans 2:1-16...** Paul begins this portion of his letter with a scathing exposure of hypocrisy. Be warned; if you condemn someone for doing something that you are also involved in doing; it simply won't be overlooked by God. God's truth is by which all things are measured and this type of pure speciousness will never go unpunished. And don't for a moment think that because God is patient and forgiving that He will give you a pass for doing what appears right, when just below the surface it is very wrong. His virtue actually indicates He expects you to repent for such arrogant and blatant hypocrisy, not live as if ignorance is bliss. If you persist, and let this behavior linger, the result of your unwillingness to repent will be as if you are building a storehouse of God's rage and fury against you. And when the time is right it will be unleashed upon you.

Trust me, anyone with an impenitent heart, who denies the truth because he prefers to believe his own lies, will ultimately face God's judgment and get exactly what he deserves. He will come face-to-face with God's extreme displeasure; and will experience severe mental, emotional, and physical pain. It will be as if he is required to carry God's burden. He will certainly regret his choice!

The converse is also true. Anyone whose life reflects the goodness of God no matter what his genetic heritage, who glorifies and honors God because he is inheriting a permanent place in His

presence, whose life testifies that he knows he'll receive eternal rewards, seems to receive from God precisely what he offered to God: glory and honor. What a peaceful life he will live, regardless of his circumstances, if he just persists in doing every good thing as a response to being set-apart for an eternity, not to earn a set-apart place in eternity.

God never relents; He operates this way without compromise. If you are self-seeking and insist on believing lies, you get what you deserve. If you are humble and obedient to God, you get what you deserve. However, we must be clear; the empowerment to obey comes from God's grace—you could never do it on your own. It's just that the emphasis here is on outcomes. And with God, He is never partial when it comes to outcomes. That is why genetic heritage does not matter when it comes to eternal life and God's judgment.

Let's say you were raised Jewish, and you were trained in the Law. God's laws will be used as the standard by which you are measured. Nevertheless, His commands reign supreme whether you've heard about them or not. As such, when you consider all those who were raised in cultures knowing nothing of His laws, they too will be held accountable to them and will perish for their disobedience. That may appear unfair until you insert this understanding. No one can be obedient enough to inherit eternal

life on their own, regardless of heritage, or their level of commitment to or knowledge of God's commands. Every person who has ever been saved by God is viewed the same way; he is just, not because he has knowledge of God's laws, not because he heard them, but because he does them; he practices them. And the ONLY way to do that perfectly is by His grace—and that's what it takes, perfect obedience. So, by His grace, both the ignorant and knowledgeable are justified! Make sense?

Let me add one clarifying tidbit. Doing God's commands is a "living" type of obedience. As was just emphasized, it's empowered and attainable only by God's grace. A bit later in this letter we will see an important contrast, but it is worth mentioning in advance. Working God's commands as if they are a list of deeds to be accomplished is a "dead" type of obedience, empowered by self-determination. Strange, but that's no better than disobedience; it's actually a brand of legalism.

Let me summarize this part of the letter like this. Gentiles who have no previous experience with God's laws are able to actually obey God's laws organically. God touches their hearts and it's as if the laws have come off the pages of the Bible, parchment scrolls, or stone tablets, and been inserted via some type of spiritual surgery, directly into their hearts. It's like their minds have become awakened with God's ways and they begin acting accordingly. At

that point, what they think and how they behave are measured against God's commands, as if they had known them their entire lives. In the end, what is inside of them will either act as an indictment against them or a pardon for every error they've ever made. And don't for a moment think any act or thought can be hidden from Almighty God. He sees it all.

"Think in Bible." DJH

## **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S MESSAGE:**

*It can all be very confusing and that is why words matter. A common language is critical because without it nothing we express has any chance to offer shared meaning. Words matter and so does vernacular. How does the ordinary person speak? What does the everyday man believe a word means? And when we look back and study or even translate the words of a people or culture not our own, what terminology were they using when they engaged with the subject matter in which we now have interest? And if you are the one responsible for transmitting meaning across time and cultures, you must be careful to consider what the words meant to those for whom you've taken the authority to represent.*

*"The cat got my tongue" may mean something very specific to you, but if you preach to another people from a different culture who speak a different language, it's not safe to assume a direct*

*translation of “cat” and “tongue” will get the job done, if you suddenly find yourself short on words. Ah, there’s another one, “short on words!” Maybe, “the thief stole my voice” is what they would understand to mean the same as “the cat got my tongue.” And that is precisely the point: thief replaces cat; stole replaces got; and voice replaces tongue—same meaning, completely different vernacular.*

*Can you imagine how often that happens in Bible translations? Just listen to this. “For not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified.” How does that sit with your current understanding of the path to eternal redemption according to good Christian doctrine? “For by grace you have been saved through faith; ...it is the gift of God, not of works.” Both of these phrases are credited to the same author, Paul. Yet, moments later in the same letter where he claimed “the doers of the law shall be justified,” he wrote: “Therefore by the works of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” And in the same letter he wrote, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; ...it is the gift of God, not of works,” he continued with, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”*

*Don’t you think it would be a good idea to understand a Jewish man’s vernacular in the first century when we contrast, in the*

*English language, “doers of the law and works of the law?” One paves the way to eternal redemption; one doesn’t. “The cat got your tongue?” Well, on a topic this important, words and vernacular are the difference between life and death!*

## HYPOCRISY

### 1. Inexcusable

#### A. The worst type of hypocrisy...

- (1) Practicing what you preach against
  - (a) The judgment of God is always according to truth!
    - 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**. But we know that **the judgment of God is according to truth** against those who practice such things.” Romans 2:1-2 NKJV
    - 2. What is the worst type of hypocrisy?
      - a) It is when you condemn someone for the very same acts you are committing.
      - b) We see what Yahweh thinks of judging others while participating in the same wrong behaviors.
      - c) It is inexcusable!

- d) God's truth will be both the measuring rod and correction rod for such hypocrisy.

(2) Is judging others forbidden?

(a) Hypocrisy is forbidden, but judgment is not.

1. "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, **rebuke, exhort**, with all long-suffering and teaching." II Timothy 4:2 NKJV
2. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, **for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." II Timothy 3:16-17 NKJV
3. The Bible does NOT teach that we should refrain from judging others.
  - a) To the contrary, we are called to hold each other accountable in the Church, but to do so in a godly manner.
  - b) *"As Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens the behavior of another man."* Proverbs 27:17
  - c) Judgment must be according to Yahweh's truth (His righteousness) and not man's opinions (self-righteousness).

(b) Don't you know you will ultimately judge the world?

1. **“Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?** And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?” I Corinthians 6:2 NKJV
2. Are you capable of passing judgement?
  - a) Of course you are, however there are some stipulations.
- (c) Judgment begins in God’s house!
  1. **“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first,** what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?” I Peter 4:17 NKJV
  2. After God’s house is in order, then judgment moves onto the world.
    - a) For that to happen you must be prepared.
- (d) First, make sure you have your act together!
  1. **“For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.** And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, **‘Let me remove the speck from your eye’; and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite!**

**First remove the plank from your own eye,** and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." Matthew 7:2-5 NKJV

2. Judging others is a risky business.

a) You will be judged with the same measuring rod you use to judge others; be sure you are willing to live up to the standards you demand from others.

b) Examine yourself and rid yourself of anything that would convict you if you were on the receiving end of correction.

c) Then you can proceed with caution...

1) *"for you who judge and practice the same things, the judgment of God is according to truth."* **And...**

2) *"with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."*

(e) It will be easy to see the sins of others.

1. "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, **casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into**

**captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”** II Corinthians 10:3-6 NKJV

2. If you open your spiritual eyes you will recognize that many sins are a spiritual battle.
  - a) Be ready to rebuke and correct anything and everything that sets itself above God.
  - b) In order to do so you must gain complete discipline over your own mind.
  - c) Once you are in total compliance, you will be ready to evaluate and judge the disobedience in others.
- (f) Judgment begins with fellow believers.
  1. “I wrote to you in my epistle **not to keep company with sexually immoral people.** Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. **But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother,** who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person. For what have I to do with judging

those also who are outside? **Do you not judge those who are inside?** But those who are outside God judges. **Therefore “put away from yourselves the evil person.”**” I Corinthians 5:9-13 NKJV

2. Judge those who are inside the Church.
  - a) Make sure you are dealing with fellow believers first, before you start looking to judge the activities of the pagan world.
  - b) Don't be shocked when pagans act like pagans; do be shocked when Christians act like pagans.
  - c) If someone claims to be a Christian, yet persists and insists on acting like a pagan, remove them from your fellowship.
  - d) See [In the Image of God](#) to learn about the devastation caused by sexual immorality.
- (g) Warning: Judgment DOES not equate to gossip and an evil tongue!
1. **“Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. <sup>(1)</sup>But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.** There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save

and to destroy. **Who are you to judge another?"**

James 4:11-12 NKJV

2. Who are you to judge another?

a) James, the brother of Jesus penned these words, and he was sitting in the judgment seat in the Church in Jerusalem.

b) He is not against judging; his conclusion was rather to "judge" righteously and to let no evil proceed from your mouth.

1) *"Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And **the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity.** The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. **But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men,** who have been made in the similitude of God. **Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren,***

***these things ought not to be so.***” James 3:5-10

NKJV

- c) Just read Acts 15:1-29, and you will witness James’ righteous judgment, and that of Paul’s as well, as Paul was there in Jerusalem because he was in conflict with the ways of his fellow brothers and was seeking judgment.
- d) No doubt, should we judge unrighteously, we will be judged righteously!
- e) Evidence points to the author of James being the half brother of Jesus; he must have witnessed Jesus operate in every type of circumstance throughout his early life.
- f) Keep in mind the phrase above from James 4:11;  
<sup>(1)</sup>*“But if you judge the law, you are **not a doer of the law** but a judge.”* It will all come into focus in the third section of this teaching, along with more wise words from James about the proper application of God’s laws.
- (h) If you are on the receiving end of correction...
  - 1. “Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. **Therefore whatever they tell you to**

**observe, that observe and do, but do not do**  
**according to their works; for they say, and do not**  
**do.** For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. {13}...  
**"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!**  
For you **shut up the kingdom of heaven** against men; for you **neither go in yourselves**, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in." Matthew 23:1-4, 13 NKJV

2. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!
  - a) There are times when those who are instructing, correcting, or judging you are speaking truth, even if they are not living by their own words.
  - b) The truth remains valid and so does their judgment. Ignore their hypocrisy and respond to the truth. Remember, *"those who judge while practicing what they judge, will face the judgment of God is according to truth."*
  - c) See [Hypocratises](#) for a detailed teaching on Matthew 23 and hypocrisy.

## JUDGMENT

### 2. No Escape

#### A. God is patient for a reason!

##### (1) Contrition and Repentance

###### (a) Or else...

1. “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? Or do you despise** the riches of **His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?**” Romans 2:3-4 NKJV
2. God’s patience is not God’s permission—it’s your chance for repentance!
  - a) Contrition: the state of feeling remorseful and penitent.
  - b) Repentance: turning back to God and His ways, which naturally results in turning away from hypocrisy (and all other sin).
  - c) When you don’t consider God’s longsuffering, His virtuous benevolence that is demonstrated by His willingness to delay His fury and wrath, and instead view His silence as permission to continue in your sin, showing complete enmity toward God

and His truth—then you are guaranteed to face His righteous judgment!

(2) God is no slacker!

(a) His promise to judge ungodly men (v. 8)

1. **“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise,** as some count slackness, **but is longsuffering** toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”** II Peter 3:9 NKJV

2. Judgement is a certainty

a) But God’s patience should inspire repentance!

(b) The goodness of God should lead to repentance! But, some go in the opposite direction of contrition and repentance, after being warned...

1. “so that **there may not be among you** man or woman or family or tribe, **whose heart turns away** today from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that **there may not be among you** a root bearing bitterness or wormwood; and so it may not happen, **when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart’**—as though the **drunkard** could be included with the **sober.**” Deuteronomy 29:18-19 NKJV

2. God extends His hand of forgiveness and renewal if you are just willing to repent... Deuteronomy 29:1-17

a) But, if instead you take on the posture that you can dismiss God's warning because He will bless you anyway, even after you've chosen to persist in your sinful ways, this will be the outcome.

b) Every type of curse will settle on you!

1) ***"The Lord would not spare him; for then the anger of the Lord and His jealousy would burn against that man, and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him, and the Lord would blot out his name from under heaven."***

Deuteronomy 29:20 NKJV

c) God's goodness, forbearance, and patience is not God's permission—it's your chance for repentance!

## **B. Two Destinies**

(1) The Impenitent Heart: receives... indignation, wrath, tribulation and anguish

(a) The heart that won't acknowledge why God is patient!

1. "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, who “**will render to each one according to his deeds**”:” Romans 2:5-6 NKJV

2. God’s wrath is coming when God’s timing is right!
  - a) It’s the hard heart that will not relent.
  - b) God’s righteous judgment is inevitable.
  - c) Each person will get what they deserve according to their deeds?
  - d) What does that mean?
    - 1) This is the origin of the doctrine of works-based salvation.
    - 2) Of course, doctrines founded on isolated verses inevitability lack substance.
    - 3) We must amalgamate the whole counsel of God to understand His word.
    - 4) Certainly, every human sits wanting on the side of judgement, even as we will see later in this very letter. “*for **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus**,*” Romans 3:23-24 NKJV
    - 5) “*God will render to each one according to his deeds.*” The secret lies in this: do you have

someone to cover your shortfall or not? If you have Christ, then yes; if you don't, then no!

(b) Unwilling to repent?

1. **"The Lord will never be willing to forgive them; his wrath and zeal will burn against them.** All the curses written in this book will fall on them, and the Lord will blot out their names from under heaven."

Deuteronomy 29:20 **NIV**

2. Treasuring up for yourself wrath...

- a) Here is the deep mystery exposed. Each person *"gets what he deserves, according to his deeds."*
- b) However, repentance allows those deeds to be surveyed through the filter of Christ's forgiveness.
- c) As such, the one who repents now deserves life, while the one with the impenitent heart still deserves wrath.
- d) The greatest risk remains for those whose impenitent heart gets so hard that it creates a permanent inability to repent.
- e) Paul called this a ***debased mind*** earlier in Romans and grieving the Holy Spirit in Ephesians:
  - 1) *"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God ***gave them over to a****

*debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;" Romans 1:28 NKJV*

2) *"And **do not grieve the Holy Spirit** of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30 NKJV*

f) Y'shua called it, *"**blasphemy against the Spirit.**"*

1) *"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, **but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven** men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; **but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven** him, either in this age or in the age to come." Matthew 12:31-32 NKJV*

g) John called it, *"**The sin that leads to death.**"*

1) *"If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. **There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that. All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death.**" I John 5:16-17 NKJV*

2) Three complete resources on the topic of “**The sin that leads to death**”: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

(c) The impenitent heart and willful sin = no forgiveness

1. “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.” Hebrews 10:26-27 NKJV

2. After the truth is revealed....

a) If the heart is too hard, God’s patience will not lead to repentance, but rejection.

b) Y’shua’s sacrifice cannot cover unrepentant sins.

c) Judgment awaits!

(d) The self-seeking heart does not obey the truth! (Skipping Romans 2:7 for the moment).

1. “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<sup>(2)</sup>**,” Romans 2:8-9 NKJV

2. The self-seeking heart.

- a) Disobedience to the TRUTH; obedient to unrighteousness, which we saw in Romans 1 (See [In the Image of God](#)).
- 1) *“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and **unrighteousness** of men, **who suppress the truth** in unrighteousness,”* Romans 1:18 NKJV
- b) Anyone who denies the truth because he prefers to believe his own lies, will ultimately face God’s judgment and get exactly what he deserves.
- c) He will come face-to-face with God’s extreme displeasure; and will experience severe mental, emotional, and physical pain.
- d) It will be as if he is required to carry God’s burden. He will certainly regret his choice!
- e) <sup>(2)</sup>See [sermon notes](#) for “From Faith to Faith” (pages 33-38) for details about why Paul sometimes distinguishes Greeks from other types of pagans.
- (e) The goodness of God should lead to repentance!  
Persistent disobedience leads to curses!
- 1. *““But it shall come to pass, **if you do not obey** the voice of the Lord your God, **to observe carefully** all His commandments and His statutes which I*

command you today, that **all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:**" Deuteronomy 28:15 NKJV

- a) See Deuteronomy 28:16-68 for the long list of consequences for disobedience.

(2) Seeking Immortality: receive... glory, honor, peace, and immortality

(a) (Eternal Life) only one way!

- 1. "**eternal life** to those who by **patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;**"

Romans 2:7 NKJV

- 2. "but **glory, honor, and peace** to everyone who works what is good, to the **Jew** first and also to the **Greek.**"

Romans 2:10 NKJV

- 3. There is only one way to Eternal Life!

- a) Patient continuance in doing good?
- b) For everyone who works what is good?
- c) What can this mean when we know that that

ONLY way to eternal life is by grace through faith?

- (b) It can only mean that this patient continuance in doing good, the good work someone is doing, is the **evidence, not the cause** of eternal life. Patient continuance is the picture of diligence to persist in the ways of God.

1. “For by **grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; **it is the gift of God, not of works**, lest anyone should boast. For **we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand **that we should walk in them.**” Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV
2. “for **all have sinned and fall short** of the glory of God, being **justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,**” Romans 3:23-24 NKJV
3. “Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2 NKJV
4. From Grace to Faith to Grace
  - a) God’s grace empowers our faith to believe (we are justified freely by His grace.)
  - b) Then, having been justified by faith, we access that grace by faith for **diligent patient continuance** in doing good work.
  - (c) When God’s patience leads to repentance, blessings follow obedience!

1. ““Now it shall come to pass, **if you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments** which I command you today, that the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. **And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God:**” Deuteronomy 28:1-2 NKJV
  - a) See Deuteronomy 28:3-14 for all the blessings
- (d) Each according to his deeds (for believers only!)
  1. “According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. **But let each one take heed how he builds on it.** For **no other foundation** can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is **Jesus Christ**. Now **if anyone builds on this foundation** with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, **each one’s work will become clear**; for the Day will declare it, because **it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work**, of what sort it is. **If anyone’s work** which he has built on it **endures**, he will **receive a reward**. **If anyone’s work**

is **burned**, he **will suffer loss**; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire." I Cor. 3:10-15 NKJV

2. Earlier in we saw "each according to his deeds" (for unbelievers vs. believers!) "*God **will render to each one according to his deeds.***" Romans 2:6
  - a) Paul also teaches us in I Corinthians that even among Christians there are better rewards for radically obedient believers.

## LAW

### 3. There is no partiality with God!

#### A. With or without the Law

##### (1) Equal Justice

(a) God is not bias; He shows no favoritism...

1. "For there is **no partiality with God.**" Romans 2:11 NKJV

2. Many people groups; one standard...

- a) Everyone is accountable to Yahweh's commands (statutes and judgments), regardless of position or heritage.
- b) Judgment always begins with Yahweh's people (I Peter 4:17).
- c) God is no respecter of man. All will be laid bare.

1) *“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

(2) The Passover Story and Three Eternal Destinies

(a) Throughout Romans, Paul will unveil three eternal classes of people, three eternal destinies (Rulers, Citizens, Rebels) that we will see in the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1). He concretizes the idea exceptionally well in Philipppians.

1. “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him **the name which is above every name**, that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of those **in heaven**, and of those **on earth**, and of those **under the earth**, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”  
Philipppians 2:9-11 NKJV

2. Every knee will bow, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth.

a) In the end, all will acknowledge Jesus Christ is Lord (even if it's too late to change their destiny)!

- b) Throughout the Scriptures there is consistent separation of these three people groups (Rulers, Citizens, Rebels).
- c) Even the promise to Abraham revealed two different destinies for his decedents.
  - 1) *“blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants **as the stars of the heaven** [heaven, rulers] and as **the sand which is on the seashore** [earth, citizens]; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”* Genesis 22:17-18 NKJV

(b) Factors God will evaluate: Three Eternal Destinies

- 1. Faith in the One true God + faith in Y’shua as the Christ (covered by faith and the blood of the Lamb):
  - a) You are judged through that filter for eternity. Y’shua is the propitiation for your sins and His righteousness is your righteousness, and thus you receive eternal life (heaven).
  - b) You are also judged according to your personal deeds and your obedience to God’s commands for your blessings.

2. No faith in the One true God + No faith in Y'shua as the Christ (not covered by the blood of the Lamb):
  - a) You are judged through that filter for eternity. You will be held accountable and will pay the cost for your own sins, and thus you receive eternal damnation (hell).
3. Faith in the One true God + no faith in Y'shua as the Christ (not covered by the blood of the Lamb):
  - a) Faithful Israel/Jews: for an eternity you are accountable for obedience to God's commands in order to eat from the Tree of Life in the New Jerusalem and live. (Revelation 22:1-5)
  - (c) As a prophetic picture of the three crosses of Calvary.
    1. The perfect man (the ruler): those in heaven.
    2. The thief who repents (the citizen): those on earth.
    3. The obstinate thief (the rebel): those under the earth.
      - a) Which cross is your eternal destiny? Your thinking on this matter will reveal so much about you.
- (3) To help you further understand... "For there is **no partiality with God.**" Romans 2:11
  - (a) You can access the story of two firstborns from the [Passover](#) narrative. (Exodus 10:1-13:16)

1. **True Firstborns who applied the blood**—Had faith to believe and applied the blood of the lamb:
    - a) faith + blood = temporal salvation with eternal redemption
  2. **False Firstborns who did not apply the blood died**—had no faith to believe and did not apply the blood of the lamb:
    - a) no faith + no blood = neither temporal nor eternal redemption
- (b) I was never at immediate risk in Egypt because I am not a firstborn; what about me?
1. **Non-firstborns who came out of Egypt with Israel**—they had the faith to believe whose side had the real God, but they did not require the blood of the lamb to avoid immediate death:
    - a) faith + no blood = temporal salvation without eternal redemption
  2. **Non-firstborns who stayed Egypt**—they did not have the faith to believe whose side had the real God, and they also did not require the blood of the lamb to avoid immediate death, but they would eventually die in Egypt:

- a) no faith + no blood = neither temporal nor eternal redemption

(4) The Revelation Story and Three Eternal Destinies

- (a) Rulers: heaven (in the new heaven), permanent life!

1. "Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 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." Revelation 20:11-12 NKJV

2. "**And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light,** and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but **only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.**" Revelation 21:24-27 NKJV

(b) Citizens: earth (in the new earth), must still eat from the Tree of Life to stay alive.

1. "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month.

**The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."** Revelation 22:1-2 NKJV

(c) Rebels: under the earth (in the lake of fire, hell), permanent death.

1. "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. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And **anyone not found written in the Book of Life** was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:13-15 NKJV

(5) To help you further understand... "For there is **no partiality with God.**" Romans 2:11

(a) Greatest and least in the kingdom is predicated on obedience... "There is **no partiality with God.**"

1. ““Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. **Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.**”

Matthew 5:17-19 NKJV

- (b) The goal of the law for everyone is Christ... “There is **no partiality with God.**”

1. “For Christ is the end [goal] of the law for righteousness **to everyone who believes.**” Romans 10:4 NKJV

- (c) Speaking in the Gentile Household of Cornelius:  
anyone whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. “There is **no partiality with God.**”

1. “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that **God shows no partiality [is no respecter of men].** But in **every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.**”

Acts 10:34-35 NKJV

(d) The Poor: offerings are judged according ability: “There is **no partiality with God.**”

1. “And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and **He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites.** So He said, **“Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all;** for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.”” Luke 21:1-4 NKJV

(e) The humble are exalted over the proud: “There is **no partiality with God.**”

1. ““Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, **‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’** I tell you, **this man went down to his house justified rather than the other;** for **everyone who exalts himself will be**

**humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”” Luke 18:10-14 NKJV**

(f) Man looks at outer appearances; God look at the heart:

**“There is no partiality with God.”**

1. “But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. **For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”” I Samuel 16:7 NKJV**

## **B. How does judgment work?**

(1) Judgment applies to you irrespective of your knowledge of God’s ways.

(a) Sin is not defined by your awareness of it!

1. “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**” Romans 2:12 NKJV

2. The gentile who was raised without Torah is still accountable to Yahweh’s laws. And of course, those raised with Torah will be judged first by it.

- a) His commands reign supreme whether you’ve heard about them or not.

- b) When you consider all those who were raised in cultures knowing nothing of God's laws, they too will be held accountable to them and will perish for their disobedience.
- c) That may appear unfair until you insert this understanding: No one can be obedient enough to inherit eternal life on their own, regardless of heritage, or their level of commitment to or knowledge of God's commands.
  - 1) *"As it is written [Ps. 14:3; 53:3]: **"There is none righteous, no, not one;"** Romans 3:10 NKJV*
  - 2) *"for **all have sinned and fall short** of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,"* Romans 3:23-24 NKJV
- d) Every person who has ever been saved by God is viewed the same way; he is just, not because he has knowledge of God's laws, not because he heard them, but because he does them; he practices them.
  - 1) *"(for **not the hearers of the law** are just in the sight of God, **but the doers of the law** will be justified;"* Romans 2:13 NKJV (see next section)

e) And the ONLY way to do them perfectly, and that's what it takes, perfect obedience—is by His grace through faith. So, by His grace, both the ignorant and knowledgeable are justified!

1) “The just shall live by faith [Hab. 2:4].”

(Romans 1:17)

2) By grace through faith you've been saved.

(Ephesians 2:8-10)

3) And the only way to obey God perfectly is by faith to access God's grace. (Romans 5:1-2)

4) See Grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience in

[From Faith to Faith](#)

(2) Sin is not defined by your awareness of it!

(a) God defines sin, not man!

1. “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and **sin is lawlessness.**” 1 John 3:4 NKJV

2. Sin is lawlessness

a) Irregardless of your knowledge of it or your agreement with it!

(b) Sin is sin even if you don't know it! We will, of course, cover this in detail in Chapter 7 of Romans, but it is appropriate to introduce here.

1. “But **sin**, taking opportunity **by the commandment**, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead. **I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died.**” Romans 7:8-9 NKJV
2. The law existed before it was codified on Mt. Sinai.
  - a) Paul is teaching us that you may think you are doing good and that is because you are unaware that you are not!
  - b) So the law came in, was formalized and shared at Mt. Sinai, and now where you once thought you were doing perfectly fine, you realize you are actually living in sin—sin is lawlessness.
  - c) The more you become aware of the law the more you become aware of your sin (hence the need for a savior!)
    - 1) “**O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!....**” Romans 7:24-25 NKJV

### **C. Doing the Law and Works of Law**

- (1) Hearers vs. Doers
  - (a) Not the hearers, but the doers!

1. “(for **not the hearers of the law** are just in the sight of God, **but the doers of the law** will be justified;”  
Romans 2:13 NKJV
  2. Vernacular
    - a) Doing the Law: faith based obedience empowered by grace.
    - b) Keep in mind (coming soon): Doing the law is NOT the same as “works of law or deeds of the law,” which are empowered by self-righteousness and self-determination.
- (b) Not the hearers but the doers...
1. “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.” James 1:22-25 NKJV
  2. “What does it profit, my brethren, **if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?...** Thus also **faith by itself, if it does not have**

**works, is dead.** But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” **Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works...** But do you want to know, O foolish man, that **faith without works is dead?**” James 2:14, 17-18, 20 NKJV

3. First let's contrast hearing vs. doing

- a) If you hear God's word but don't practice God's word, you are deceiving yourself if you think you are a true person of faith.
- b) Authentic believers look at God's law and obey it. They do the work that shows true faith.
- c) People can talk all they want about their faith, but if there is no substance behind their words, their faith is not real.
- d) “Can faith save him?” James asks. Of course it can! *“By grace through faith you've been saved.”* (Ephesians 2:8-10)
- e) However, if there is no evidence, there is no faith.

(2) Works of Law

(a) Will save no one!

- 1. “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may

be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. **Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**" Romans 3:19-20 NKJV

2. Here we have one of the first great misunderstandings of Paul's deep writing style in Romans.
  - a) *"for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but **the doers of the law** will be justified."* (Romans 2:13) *"Therefore **by the deeds [works] of the law no flesh** will be justified."* (Romans 3:20)
  - b) "Doer of the law" refers to faith-based-obedience empowered by grace.
  - c) Works or deeds of the law is empowered by self-righteousness and self-determination; it's more concerned with checking off a to-do-list of commandments.
  - d) Doing God's commands is a "living" type of obedience. It is empowered and attainable only by God's grace.
  - e) Working God's commands as if they are a list of deeds to be accomplished is a "dead" type of obedience, empowered by self-determination.

Work's of law is no better than disobedience; it's actually a brand of legalism.

3. The many ugly faces of Legalism

- a) For an in-depth teaching on legalism see [Religionship or Relationship](#).
- b) The practice of adding anything to the free gift of salvation by grace through faith.
- c) Even if what you are adding to your faith is a good thing, something God wants you to do, a law that God requires you to obey, if you believe you must do it to receive or maintain your eternal redemption, then it is legalism.
- d) When we build our relationship with God into a system of rules and procedures—that is called religion.
- e) When we insist others adhere to our preferred system of rules and procedures—that is called legalism.
- f) Legalism is equivalent to strangle-ism. It's the way we choke the life out of our relationship with God.
- g) God is not interested in your legalism or your religion.

- h) And this is precisely the problem with works of law. It is complete bondage because redemption has been attached to something other than faith in Christ.
  - i) Even if it's a good thing, like obeying God's commands, if you attach any requirement for justification, other than faith, it is total bondage!
  - j) The liberty we have in Christ is that we have been freed from the erroneous belief that we can obey our way into redemption.
  - k) Traditions that dictate strict obedience to God's commandments for salvation is legalism.
  - l) It is legalistic to insist others must adhere to our or a preferred system of rules and procedures to be in right standing with God.
- (b) This is like telling Yahweh and others that your opinion of what it means to obey God takes precedence over His opinion!
1. "Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. **But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.** There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to

destroy. Who are you to judge another?" James 4:11-12 NKJV

2. Legalism: *"you are not a doer of the law but a judge of the law."*

a) The Torah must be written on our hearts, through faith, in order to be pleasing to Yahweh.

b) Nevertheless, it can't just remain in our hearts as an intellectual concept. It must translate into action.

c) Our faith needs to be applied to something as James taught us earlier: *"Faith without works is dead?"* James 2:20

(c) Why would Paul use similar phrases that have the exact opposite meaning, one in Chapter 2 and then one 36 verses later in Chapter 3?

1. "as also in all his [Paul's] epistles, speaking in them of these things, **in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction**, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures." II Peter 3:16 NKJV.

2. Paul is a highly educated Torah scholar.

a) He presents information, at times, in such a way that can be quite confusing, unless you are willing

to really press in and seek the Lord for Holy Spirit guidance.

(3) For most Christians, it does not get any more confusing than Galatians!

(a) By the works of the law no flesh shall be justified....

1. “knowing that a **man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ **and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.**”

Galatians 2:16 NKJV

2. This is that on which we just elaborated in Romans.

- a) Man is not justified by works of the law (that’s legalism).
- b) Man is justified by faith in Christ (alone).
- c) So we are very prepared to understand what Paul says next, and thus not, *“twist his words to our own destruction.”* II Peter 3:16

(b) Works of law is a curse!

1. **“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.”** [Deut.

27:26] But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for **“the just shall live by faith.”** [Hab. 2:4, [From Faith to Faith](#)] Rom. 1:17] Yet the law is not of faith, but **“the man who does them shall live by them.”** [Lev. 18:5]” Galatians 3:10-12 NKJV

2. Why are works of law a curse?

a) Because: *“Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, **to do them.**”* (Referring to Deut. 27:26)

- 1) Curses are for those who don't do the law.
- 2) Works of law is defined as “not doing the law!”
- 3) Therefore, if you are of works of the law and not a doer of the law, curses await.

b) And because: <sup>(3)</sup>*“The man who does them shall live by them.”* (Referring to Leviticus 18:5)

- 1) *“Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘I am the Lord your God. According to the doings of the land of Egypt, where you dwelt, you shall not do; and according to the doings of the land of Canaan, where I am bringing you, you shall not do; nor shall you walk in their ordinances.*

***You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore keep My statutes and My judgments, which <sup>(3)</sup>if a man does, he shall live by them: I am the Lord.***” Leviticus 18:1-5  
NKJV

- c) It should be a clear a daylight now. Don’t get involved in any of those pagan activities of Egypt or Canaan. Do obey Yahweh’s laws and walk in them! If you do, you will have life (and not death)!

#### **D. Grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience**

(1) Obedience by Faith (see [From Faith to Faith](#))

(a) Faith translates into action.

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

Romans 2:14-16 NKJV

2. Faith applied is obedience.

- a) Gentiles who have no previous experience with God's laws are able to actually obey God's laws organically.
- b) God touches their hearts and it's as if the laws have come off the pages of the Bible, parchment scrolls, or stone tablets, and been inserted via some type of spiritual surgery, directly into their hearts.
  - 1) *"For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but **he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.**" Romans 2:28-29 NKJV*
- c) It's like their minds have become awakened with God's ways and they begin acting accordingly.
- d) At that point, what they think and how they behave are measured against God's commands, as if they had known them their entire lives.
- e) In the end, what is inside of them will either act as an indictment against them or a pardon for every error they've ever made.
  - 1) *"...For **out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good***

***treasure of his heart** brings forth good things,  
and an evil man **out of the evil treasure** brings  
forth evil things.” Matthew 12:34-35 NKJV*

2) *“For the word of God is living and powerful,  
and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing  
even to the division of soul and spirit, and of  
joints and marrow, and **is a discerner of the  
thoughts and intents of the heart.**” Hebrews  
4:12 NKJV*

f) Don't for a moment think any act or thought can  
be hidden from Almighty God. He sees it all.

1) *“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*

2) *“**For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.**”  
Proverbs 23:7 NKJV*

(b) Nothing is hidden from God!

1. “O Lord, **You have searched me and known me.** You  
know my sitting down and my rising up; You  
understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my  
path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all  
my ways. **For there is not a word on my tongue,** But

behold, O Lord, **You know it altogether.** {23}...

**Search me,** O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And **see if there is any wicked way in me,** And lead me in the way everlasting.”

Psalms 139:1-4, 23-24 NKJV

2. God has searched your heart. He knows...

- a) Where you are...
- b) What you are doing...
- c) Where you are going...
- d) What you have said...
- e) What you are thinking of saying...
- f) Your anxieties...
- g) And your wicked intentions...

3. He is not the variable, you are! So...

- a) Ask God to reveal you to you!

(c) And finally, the law is good if one uses it lawfully...

1. “desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm. But **we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully,** knowing this: **that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless** and insubordinate, **for the ungodly and for sinners,** for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and

murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, **and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine**, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust." I Timothy 1:7-11 NKJV

2. Against such there is no law!

- a) *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. **Against such there is no law.**"* Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV
- b) The law is good if one uses it lawfully.
- c) The law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless, the ungodly and for sinners.
- d) *"For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin."* Romans 7:14 NKJV

3. Vernacular:

- a) Doing the law is critical. How? With radical-faith-based-obedience to God.
- b) Works of the law is legalism. You must understand the difference.

- c) A common language is critical because without it nothing we express has any chance to offer shared meaning.
- d) Words matter and so does vernacular. How does the ordinary person speak?
- e) What does the everyday man believe a word means?
- f) And when we look back and study or even translate the words of a people or culture not our own, what terminology were they using when they engaged with the subject matter in which we now have interest?
- g) And if you are the one responsible for transmitting meaning across time and cultures, you must be careful to consider what the words meant to those for whom you've taken the authority to represent.
- h) *"The doers of the law will be justified, but by the works of the law no one will be justified!"* It's the difference between life and death!

## **Summary: HYPOCRISY**

### **1. Inexcusable**

#### **A. The worst type of hypocrisy...**

- (1) Practicing what you preach against
  - (a) The judgment of God is always according to truth!
    - 1. What is the worst type of hypocrisy?
      - a) It is when you condemn someone for the very same acts you are committing.
      - b) We see what Yahweh thinks of judging others while participating in the same wrong behaviors.
      - c) It is inexcusable!
      - d) God's truth will be both the measuring rod and correction rod for such hypocrisy.
- (2) Is judging others forbidden?
  - (a) Hypocrisy is forbidden, but judgment is not.
    - 1. The Bible does NOT teach that we should refrain from judging others.
      - a) To the contrary, we are called to hold each other accountable in the Church, but to do so in a godly manner.
      - b) *"As Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens the behavior of another man."*
      - c) Judgment must be according to Yahweh's truth (His righteousness) and not man's opinions (self-righteousness).
  - (b) Don't you know you will ultimately judge the world?

1. Are you capable of passing judgement?
  - a) Of course you are, however there are some stipulations.
- (c) Judgment begins in God's house!
  1. After God's house is in order, then judgment moves onto the world.
    - a) For that to happen you must be prepared.
- (d) First, make sure you have your act together!
  1. Judging others is a risky business.
    - a) You will be judged with the same measuring rod you use to judge others; be sure you are willing to live up to the standards you demand from others.
    - b) Examine yourself and rid yourself of anything that would convict you if you were on the receiving end of correction.
    - c) Then you can proceed with caution...
- (e) It will be easy to see the sins of others.
  1. If you open your spiritual eyes you will recognize that many sins are a spiritual battle.
    - a) Be ready to rebuke and correct anything and everything that sets itself above God.
    - b) In order to do so you must gain complete discipline over your own mind.

- c) Once you are in total compliance, you will be ready to evaluate and judge the disobedience in others.
- (f) Judgment begins with fellow believers.
  - 1. Judge those who are inside the Church.
    - a) Make sure you are dealing with fellow believers first, before you start looking to judge the activities of the pagan world.
    - b) Don't be shocked when pagans act like pagans; do be shocked when Christians act like pagans.
    - c) If someone claims to be a Christian, yet persists and insists on acting like a pagan, remove them from your fellowship.
    - d) See [In the Image of God](#) to learn about the devastation caused by sexual immorality.
  - (g) Warning: Judgment DOES not equate to gossip and an evil tongue!
    - 1. Who are you to judge another?
      - a) James, the brother of Jesus penned these words, and he was sitting in the judgment seat in the Church in Jerusalem.

- b) He is not against judging; his conclusion was rather to “judge” righteously and to let no evil proceed from your mouth.
- c) Just read Acts 15:1-29, and you will witness James’ righteous judgment, and that of Paul’s as well, as Paul was there in Jerusalem because he was in conflict with the ways of his fellow brothers and was seeking judgment.
- d) No doubt, should we judge unrighteously, we will be judged righteously!
- e) Evidence points to the author of James being the half brother of Jesus; he must have witnessed Jesus operate in every type of circumstance throughout his early life.
- f) Keep in mind the phrase above from James 4:11;  
<sup>(1)</sup>*“But if you judge the law, you are **not a doer of the law** but a judge.”* It will all come into focus in the third section of this teaching, along with more wise words from James about the proper application of God’s laws.
- (h) If you are on the receiving end of correction...
  - 1. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!

- a) There are times when those who are instructing, correcting, or judging you are speaking truth, even if they are not living by their own words.
- b) The truth remains valid and so does their judgment. Ignore their hypocrisy and respond to the truth. Remember, *“those who judge while practicing what they judge, will face the judgment of God is according to truth.”*
- c) See [Hypocratisms](#) for a detailed teaching on Matthew 23 and hypocrisy.

## **Summary: JUDGMENT**

### **2. No Escape**

#### **A. God is patient for a reason!**

##### **(1) Contrition and Repentance**

###### **(a) Or else...**

1. God's patience is not God's permission—it's your chance for repentance!

- a) Contrition: the state of feeling remorseful and penitent.
- b) Repentance: turning back to God and His ways, which naturally results in turning away from hypocrisy (and all other sin).

- c) When you don't consider God's longsuffering, His virtuous benevolence that is demonstrated by His willingness to delay His fury and wrath, and instead view His silence as permission to continue in your sin, showing complete enmity toward God and His truth—then you are guaranteed to face His righteous judgment!

(2) God is no slacker!

(a) His promise to judge ungodly men (v. 8)

1. Judgement is a certainty

a) But God's patience should inspire repentance!

(b) The goodness of God should lead to repentance! But, some go in the opposite direction of contrition and repentance, after being warned...

a) But, if instead you take on the posture that you can dismiss God's warning because He will bless you anyway, even after you've chosen to persist in your sinful ways, this will be the outcome.

b) Every type of curse will settle on you!

c) God's goodness, forbearance, and patience is not God's permission—it's your chance for repentance!

## **B. Two Destinies**

- (1) The Impenitent Heart: receives... indignation, wrath, tribulation and anguish
  - (a) The heart that won't acknowledge why God is patient!
    - 1. God's wrath is coming when God's timing is right!
      - a) It's the hard heart that will not relent.
      - b) God's righteous judgment is inevitable.
      - c) Each person will get what they deserve according to their deeds?
      - d) What does that mean?
        - 1) This is the origin of the doctrine of works-based salvation.
        - 2) Of course, doctrines founded on isolated verses inevitability lack substance.
        - 3) We must amalgamate the whole counsel of God to understand His word.
        - 4) Certainly, every human sits wanting on the side of judgement, even as we will see later in this very letter.
        - 5) *"God will render to each one according to his deeds."* The secret lies in this: do you have someone to cover your shortfall or not? If you have Christ, then yes; if you don't, then no!
  - (b) Unwilling to repent?

1. Treasuring up for yourself wrath...
  - a) Here is the deep mystery exposed. Each person *“gets what he deserves, according to his deeds.”*
  - b) However, repentance allows those deeds to be surveyed through the filter of Christ’s forgiveness.
  - c) As such, the one who repents now deserves life, while the one with the impenitent heart still deserves wrath.
  - d) The greatest risk remains for those whose impenitent heart gets so hard that it creates a permanent inability to repent.
  - e) Paul called this a ***debased mind*** earlier in Romans and grieving the Holy Spirit in Ephesians:
  - f) Y’shua called it, ***“blasphemy against the Spirit.”***
  - g) John called it, ***“The sin that leads to death.”***
    - 1) Three complete resources on the topic of ***“The sin that leads to death”***: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)
- (c) The impenitent heart and willful sin = no forgiveness
  1. After the truth is revealed....
    - a) If the heart is too hard, God’s patience will not lead to repentance, but rejection.
    - b) Y’shua’s sacrifice cannot cover unrepentant sins.
    - c) Judgment awaits!

(d) The self-seeking heart does not obey the truth!

1. The self-seeking heart.

- a) Disobedience to the TRUTH; obedient to unrighteousness, which we saw in Romans 1 (See [In the Image of God](#)).
- b) Anyone who denies the truth because he prefers to believe his own lies, will ultimately face God's judgment and get exactly what he deserves.
- c) He will come face-to-face with God's extreme displeasure; and will experience severe mental, emotional, and physical pain.
- d) It will be as if he is required to carry God's burden. He will certainly regret his choice!
- e) <sup>(2)</sup>See [sermon notes](#) for "*From Faith to Faith*" (pages 33-38) for details about why Paul sometimes distinguishes Greeks from other types of pagans.

(e) The goodness of God should lead to repentance!

Persistent disobedience leads to curses!

- a) See Deuteronomy 28:16-68 for the long list of consequences for disobedience.

(2) Seeking Immortality: receive... glory, honor, peace, and immortality

(a) (Eternal Life) only one way!

1. There is only one way to Eternal Life!
  - a) Patient continuance in doing good?
  - b) For everyone who works what is good?
  - c) What can this mean when we know that that  
ONLY way to eternal life is by grace through faith?
- (b) It can only mean that this patient continuance in doing good, the good work someone is doing, is the **evidence**, **not the cause** of eternal life. Patient continuance is the picture of diligence to persist in the ways of God.
1. From Grace to Faith to Grace
  - a) God's grace empowers our faith to believe (we are justified freely by His grace.)
  - b) Then, having been justified by faith, we access that grace by faith for **diligent patient continuance** in doing good work.
- (c) When God's patience leads to repentance, blessings follow obedience!
  1. See Deuteronomy 28:3-14 for all the blessings
- (d) Each according to his deeds (for believers only!)
  1. Earlier in we saw "each according to his deeds" (for unbelievers vs. believers!)

- a) Paul also teaches us in I Corinthians that even among Christians there are better rewards for radically obedient believers.

## **Summary: LAW**

### **3. There is no partiality with God!**

#### **A. With or without the Law**

##### **(1) Equal Justice**

- (a) God is not bias; He shows no favoritism...

##### **1. Many people groups; one standard...**

- a) Everyone is accountable to Yahweh's commands (statutes and judgments), regardless of position or heritage.
- b) Judgment always begins with Yahweh's people (I Peter 4:17).
- c) God is no respecter of man. All will be laid bare.

##### **(2) The Passover Story and Three Eternal Destinies**

- (a) Throughout Romans, Paul will unveil three eternal classes of people, three eternal destinies (Rulers, Citizens, Rebels) that we will see in the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1). He concretizes the idea exceptionally well in Philipians.

1. Every knee will bow, in heaven, on earth, and under the earth.
  - a) In the end, all will acknowledge Jesus Christ is Lord (even if it's too late to change their destiny)!
  - b) Throughout the Scriptures there is consistent separation of these three people groups (Rulers, Citizens, Rebels).
  - c) Even the promise to Abraham revealed two different destinies for his decedents.
- (b) Factors God will evaluate: Three Eternal Destinies
  1. Faith in the One true God + faith in Y'shua as the Christ (covered by faith and the blood of the Lamb):
    - a) You are judged through that filter for eternity. Y'shua is the propitiation for your sins and His righteousness is your righteousness, and thus you receive eternal life (heaven).
    - b) You are also judged according to your personal deeds and your obedience to God's commands for your blessings.
  2. No faith in the One true God + No faith in Y'shua as the Christ (not covered by the blood of the Lamb):
    - a) You are judged through that filter for eternity. You will be held accountable and will pay the cost for

your own sins, and thus you receive eternal damnation (hell).

3. Faith in the One true God + no faith in Y'shua as the Christ (not covered by the blood of the Lamb):

a) Faithful Israel/Jews: for an eternity you are accountable for obedience to God's commands in order to eat from the Tree of Life in the New Jerusalem and live. (Revelation 22:1-5)

(c) As a prophetic picture of the three crosses of Calvary.

1. The perfect man (the ruler): those in heaven.
2. The thief who repents (the citizen): those on earth.
3. The obstinate thief (the rebel): those under the earth.

a) Which cross is your eternal destiny? Your thinking on this matter will reveal so much about you.

(3) To help you further understand... "For there is **no partiality with God.**" Romans 2:11

(a) You can access the story of two firstborns from the [Passover](#) narrative. (Exodus 10:1-13:16)

1. **True Firstborns who applied the blood**—Had faith to believe and applied the blood of the lamb:

a) faith + blood = temporal salvation with eternal redemption

2. **False Firstborns who did not apply the blood died—**

had no faith to believe and did not apply the blood of the lamb:

a) no faith + no blood = neither temporal nor eternal redemption

(b) I was never at immediate risk in Egypt because I am not a firstborn; what about me?

1. **Non-firstborns who came out of Egypt with Israel—**

they had the faith to believe whose side had the real God, but they did not require the blood of the lamb to avoid immediate death:

a) faith + no blood = temporal salvation without eternal redemption

2. **Non-firstborns who stayed Egypt—**they did not have the faith to believe whose side had the real God, and they also did not require the blood of the lamb to avoid immediate death, but they would eventually die in Egypt:

a) no faith + no blood = neither temporal nor eternal redemption

(4) The Revelation Story and Three Eternal Destinies

(a) Rulers: heaven (in the new heaven), permanent life!

- (b) Citizens: earth (in the new earth), must still eat from the Tree of Life to stay alive.
- (c) Rebels: under the earth (in the lake of fire, hell), permanent death.
- (5) To help you further understand... “For there is **no partiality with God.**” Romans 2:11
  - (a) Greatest and least in the kingdom is predicated on obedience... “There is **no partiality with God.**”
  - (b) The goal of the law for everyone is Christ... “There is **no partiality with God.**”
  - (c) Speaking in the Gentile Household of Cornelius: anyone whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. “There is **no partiality with God.**”
  - (d) The Poor: offerings are judged according ability: “There is **no partiality with God.**”
  - (e) The humble are exalted over the proud: “There is **no partiality with God.**”
  - (f) Man looks at outer appearances; God look at the heart: “There is **no partiality with God.**”

**B. How does judgment work?**

- (1) Judgment applies to you irrespective of your knowledge of God's ways.
  - (a) Sin is not defined by your awareness of it!

1. The gentile who was raised without Torah is still accountable to Yahweh's laws. And of course, those raised with Torah will be judged first by it.
  - a) His commands reign supreme whether you've heard about them or not.
  - b) When you consider all those who were raised in cultures knowing nothing of God's laws, they too will be held accountable to them and will perish for their disobedience.
  - c) That may appear unfair until you insert this understanding: No one can be obedient enough to inherit eternal life on their own, regardless of heritage, or their level of commitment to or knowledge of God's commands.
  - d) Every person who has ever been saved by God is viewed the same way; he is just, not because he has knowledge of God's laws, not because he heard them, but because he does them; he practices them.
  - e) And the ONLY way to do them perfectly, and that's what it takes, perfect obedience—is by His grace through faith. So, by His grace, both the ignorant and knowledgeable are justified!

- 1) “The just shall live by faith [Hab. 2:4].”  
(Romans 1:17)
- 2) By grace through faith you’ve been saved.  
(Ephesians 2:8-10)
- 3) And the only way to obey God perfectly is by  
faith to access God’s grace. (Romans 5:1-2)
- 4) See Grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience in  
[From Faith to Faith](#)

(2) Sin is not defined by your awareness of it!

(a) God defines sin, not man!

1. Sin is lawlessness

a) Irregardless of your knowledge of it or your  
agreement with it!

(b) Sin is sin even if you don’t know it! We will, of course,  
cover this in detail in Chapter 7 of Romans, but it is  
appropriate to introduce here.

1. The law existed before it was codified on Mt. Sinai.

a) Paul is teaching us that you may think you are  
doing good and that is because you are unaware  
that you are not!

b) So the law came in, was formalized and shared at  
Mt. Sinai, and now where you once thought you

were doing perfectly fine, you realize you are actually living in sin—sin is lawlessness.

- c) The more you become aware of the law the more you become aware of your sin (hence the need for a savior!)

### **C. Doing the Law and Works of Law**

#### **(1) Hearers vs. Doers**

- (a) Not the hearers, but the doers!

##### **1. Vernacular**

- a) Doing the Law: faith based obedience empowered by grace.
- b) Keep in mind (coming soon): Doing the law is NOT the same as “works of law or deeds of the law,” which are empowered by self-righteousness and self-determination.

- (b) Not the hearers but the doers...

##### **1. First let's contrast hearing vs. doing**

- a) If you hear God's word but don't practice God's word, you are deceiving yourself if you think you are a true person of faith.
- b) Authentic believers look at God's law and obey it. They do the work that shows true faith.

- c) People can talk all they want about their faith, but if there is no substance behind their words, their faith is not real.
- d) “Can faith save him?” James asks. Of course it can! *“By grace through faith you’ve been saved.”*  
(Ephesians 2:8-10)
- e) However, if there is no evidence, there is no faith.

## (2) Works of Law

### (a) Will save no one!

1. Here we have one of the first great misunderstandings of Paul’s deep writing style in Romans.
  - a) “Doer of the law” refers to faith-based-obedience empowered by grace.
  - b) Works or deeds of the law is empowered by self-righteousness and self-determination; it’s more concerned with checking off a to-do-list of commandments.
  - c) Doing God’s commands is a “living” type of obedience. It is empowered and attainable only by God’s grace.
  - d) Working God’s commands as if they are a list of deeds to be accomplished is a “dead” type of obedience, empowered by self-determination.

Work's of law is no better than disobedience; it's actually a brand of legalism.

2. The many ugly faces of Legalism

- a) For an in-depth teaching on legalism see [Religionship or Relationship](#).
- b) The practice of adding anything to the free gift of salvation by grace through faith.
- c) Even if what you are adding to your faith is a good thing, something God wants you to do, a law that God requires you to obey, if you believe you must do it to receive or maintain your eternal redemption, then it is legalism.
- d) When we build our relationship with God into a system of rules and procedures—that is called religion.
- e) When we insist others adhere to our preferred system of rules and procedures—that is called legalism.
- f) Legalism is equivalent to strangle-ism. It's the way we choke the life out of our relationship with God.
- g) God is not interested in your legalism or your religion.

- h) And this is precisely the problem with works of law. It is complete bondage because redemption has been attached to something other than faith in Christ.
  - i) Even if it's a good thing, like obeying God's commands, if you attach any requirement for justification, other than faith, it is total bondage!
  - j) The liberty we have in Christ is that we have been freed from the erroneous belief that we can obey our way into redemption.
  - k) Traditions that dictate strict obedience to God's commandments for salvation is legalism.
  - l) It is legalistic to insist others must adhere to our or a preferred system of rules and procedures to be in right standing with God.
- (b) This is like telling Yahweh and others that your opinion of what it means to obey God takes precedence over His opinion!
1. Legalism: *"you are not a doer of the law but a judge of the law."*
    - a) The Torah must be written on our hearts, through faith, in order to be pleasing to Yahweh.

- b) Nevertheless, it can't just remain in our hearts as an intellectual concept. It must translate into action.
  - c) Our faith needs to be applied to something as James taught us earlier: *"Faith without works is dead?"* James 2:20
- (c) Why would Paul use similar phrases that have the exact opposite meaning, one in Chapter 2 and then one 36 verses later in Chapter 3?
  - 1. Paul is a highly educated Torah scholar.
    - a) He presents information, at times, in such a way that can be quite confusing, unless you are willing to really press in and seek the Lord for Holy Spirit guidance.
- (3) For most Christians, it does not get any more confusing than Galatians!
  - (a) By the works of the law no flesh shall be justified....
    - 1. This is that on which we just elaborated in Romans.
      - a) Man is not justified by works of the law (that's legalism).
      - b) Man is justified by faith in Christ (alone).

c) So we are very prepared to understand what Paul says next, and thus not, *“twist his words to our own destruction.”* II Peter 3:16

(b) Works of law is a curse!

1. Why are works of law a curse?

a) Because: *“Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, **to do them.**”* (Referring to Deut. 27:26)

1) Curses are for those who don’t do the law.

2) Works of law is defined as “not doing the law!”

3) Therefore, if you are of works of the law and not a doer of the law, curses await.

b) And because: <sup>(3)</sup>*“The man who does them shall live by them.”* (Referring to Leviticus 18:5)

c) It should be a clear a daylight now. Don’t get involved in any of those pagan activities of Egypt or Canaan. Do obey Yahweh’s laws and walk in them! If you do, you will have life (and not death)!

#### **D. Grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience**

(1) Obedience by Faith (see [From Faith to Faith](#))

(a) Faith translates into action.

1. Faith applied is obedience.

- a) Gentiles who have no previous experience with God's laws are able to actually obey God's laws organically.
  - b) God touches their hearts and it's as if the laws have come off the pages of the Bible, parchment scrolls, or stone tablets, and been inserted via some type of spiritual surgery, directly into their hearts.
  - c) It's like their minds have become awakened with God's ways and they begin acting accordingly.
  - d) At that point, what they think and how they behave are measured against God's commands, as if they had known them their entire lives.
  - e) In the end, what is inside of them will either act as an indictment against them or a pardon for every error they've ever made.
  - f) Don't for a moment think any act or thought can be hidden from Almighty God. He sees it all.
- (b) Nothing is hidden from God!
1. God has searched your heart. He knows...
    - a) Where you are...
    - b) What you are doing...
    - c) Where you are going...
    - d) What you have said...

- e) What you are thinking of saying...
  - f) Your anxieties...
  - g) And your wicked intentions...
2. He is not the variable, you are! So...
- a) Ask God to reveal you to you!
- (c) And finally, the law is good if one uses it lawfully...
1. Against such there is no law!
- a) The law is good if one uses it lawfully.
  - b) The law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless, the ungodly and for sinners.
  - c) *"For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin."* Romans 7:14 NKJV
2. Vernacular:
- a) Doing the law is critical. How? With radical-faith-based-obedience to God.
  - b) Works of the law is legalism. You must understand the difference.
  - c) A common language is critical because without it nothing we express has any chance to offer shared meaning.
  - d) Words matter and so does vernacular. How does the ordinary person speak?

- e) What does the everyday man believe a word means?
- f) And when we look back and study or even translate the words of a people or culture not our own, what terminology were they using when they engaged with the subject matter in which we now have interest?
- g) And if you are the one responsible for transmitting meaning across time and cultures, you must be careful to consider what the words meant to those for whom you've taken the authority to represent.
- h) *"The doers of the law will be justified, but by the works of the law no one will be justified!"* It's the difference between life and death!

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

### **1. What is the worst type of hypocrisy as demonstrated in Romans 2:1-2 and Matthew 23:1-4?**

- A. Judging others is not forbidden, but there are many parameters to consider. Explain those parameters. (See: II Timothy 4:2; 3:16-17; I Corinthians 5:9-13; 6:2; Matthew 7:2-5; II Corinthians 10:3-6; James 3:5-10; 4:11-12)

**2. Please explain this statement using Romans 2:3-4.**

- A. God's patience is not God's permission—it's your chance for repentance!
- B. Why is God patient according to Peter? (See II Peter 3:9)

**3. The goodness of God should lead to repentance! But, some go in the opposite direction of contrition and repentance.**

- A. Explain what that looks like and the consequences using Deuteronomy 29:18-20.

**4. Romans 2:5-6 says, "God will render to each one according to his deeds."**

- A. What does that mean?
- B. Does this support the doctrine of works-based salvation? Why or why not? (Consider Romans 3:23-24; I Corinthians 3:10-15)

**5. What is the great dilemma of the self-seeking heart? (See Romans 2:8-9)**

- A. How does it relate to Romans 1:18?
- B. Contrast it to the heart that seeks eternity. (See Romans 2:7, 10)

**6. We know there is only one way to be saved. (See: Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 3:23-24; 5:1-2)**

- A. In light of such, explain patient continuance in doing good relative to immortality in Romans 2:7.

**7. "For there is no partiality with God." (Romans 2:11)**

- A. Use the following scripture passages and write an essay supporting Romans 2:11 (Hebrews 4:13; Matthew 5:17-19; Romans 10:4; Acts 10:34-35; Luke 21:1-4; 18:10-14; 1 Samuel 16:7)

**8. Explain how God's judgment applies to you irrespective of your knowledge of God's ways. (See: Romans 2:12; 3:10, 23-24)**

- A. Explain how sin is not defined by your awareness of it using 1 John 3:4.
- B. Explain how the law increases awareness of sin using Romans 7:8-9.

**9. Compare and contrast Romans 2:13 and Romans 3:19-20, specifically, doing the law vs. works of the law.**

- A. Access the sermon notes pages 41-49 for help.
- B. Contrast doers of the law from hearers only using James 1:22-25; 2:14, 17-18, 20.

**10. Write an essay showing the many ugly faces of legalism**

- A. Access the sermon notes pages 44-46 for help.

**11. Gentiles who have no previous experience with God's laws are able to actually obey God's laws organically.**

- A. Use Romans 2:14-16 and 2:28-29 to explain the above statement.

B. God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ. Use Matthew 12:34-35; Hebrews 4:12-13; Proverbs 23:7 and Psalms 139:1-4, 23-24 to show how.