

Oct. 13, 2019

Speaker: Eric Naus **Series:** This I Believe – The Book of Romans

Passage: Romans 2:1-16

Community Group Questions: "Facing God"

1. Read Romans 2:1-5. At this point in the letter, Paul addresses the "moralist." It's the person who prides themselves on being morally upright. When they hear Paul's critique of godless society described in Romans 1:18-32, they applaud, because they don't consider themselves to be a wicked sinner like "those people" over there. What's Paul's response to such an attitude, as seen in verses 1-5? Why do so-called "good people" need the gospel just as much as the "wicked people" described earlier in Romans?
2. Read 2:6-11. In these verses, Paul explains that there will be an ultimate day of judgment where God will hold all humanity accountable for how they've lived. How does this Christian doctrine of final judgment give us great hope in the face of injustice, injury, and cruelty in our world? On the other hand, why is the Day of Judgment such a sobering idea?
3. Paul says there will only be two categories of people on the Day of Judgment: those who consistently did good, and therefore, receive eternal life, and those who did wickedness, and therefore receive God's wrath. Do you think *anyone* will make it into heaven based on their own good works? If not, what do we need to give us assurance that on that final day we will, indeed, inherit eternal life? (see Romans 5:8-9).
4. Read 2:12-16. Paul says that God's judgment will be "legal" – i.e. it will be based upon his law. For those who knew God's revealed law in Scripture, it will be the standard upon which they are judged. For those who only had God's law "written on their heart" (through their conscience), this will be the law by which they are judged. And yet, in both cases, people will be shown to be guilty of breaking God's law (see Romans 3:9-10, 19-20). Based upon these facts, what hope do we have for this day of judgment? (see Romans 3:23-24).
5. If it's really true that God will hold the world accountable on a Day of Judgment, and yet Christians will be saved on that day because of the rescuing grace of God in Christ, how should that change our lives? What attitudes should we have? What kind of people should we be in light of His grace?

Prayer suggestion: Thank God for his justice and for his grace. Thank Christ for our salvation. Pray for those experiencing injury in their lives. Plead for God's intervention, and for strength to forgive.