

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .

And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”

Let’s Worship God

15th-20th April 2013
Romans



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

airdrierpcs.org, 01236 620107
Part of the RFCS - rpcscotland.org

Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Mon.
15th April

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
Romans 5:2

reading Romans 2:1-6 - The Judgement

notes Paul has told us that it is written into the conscience of every person that God will bring all evil into judgement. The depth of man's wickedness is seen in the fact that although he knows this, he still continues to do evil, and actually takes pleasure in it. He even encourages others in it. But there will be no escape. He will certainly come to the judgement seat of God.

All who deserve to be judged will be judged. This is what the apostle teaches us in verse 2. Judgement will not be according to the likes and dislikes of men. It will be according to the truth. You will not be excused from judgement just because you have spoken out against some particular sin. Verses 1 and 3 make clear that all who deserve to be judged will be judged no matter how self-righteous they feel or how many good things they think they have done.

Judgement will be made according to a person's deeds. This is taught in verse 6. Deeds will determine the sentence or the reward. This truth is taught throughout the Scriptures. What a person does is the clue to what he is. Look at verses 4-5. Imagine a man who, seeing no sign of judgement, concludes that God must be soft, and therefore goes on in his sin, without repenting. Are you such a person? You will be judged according to your deeds. God is not soft. He is kind to you, with the intention of leading you to repentance. But what have you done instead? You have despised His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering. You have proved that your heart is wicked and hard. All you have succeeded in doing is to amass for yourself an ever-accumulating store of divine anger, which will burst on you and ruin you eternally, when God's righteous judgement is revealed. His judgement on you will be appropriate to your deeds.

- questions**
1. What will judgement be based on?
 2. What will happen to those who do not repent?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 30:all
1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



Sat.
20th April

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
Romans 5:2

reading Romans 2:17-20 - Self-Congratulation

notes In verses 17-20 Paul lists a number of points upon which the Jew of his day congratulated himself. 1. He called himself a Jew, and bore the name proudly. It marked him out as a member of the chosen race. 2. He relied on his possession of the Law. He was very proud that his nation had been privileged to receive it. 3. He boasted of his relationship to God. His nation alone had received God's favour. 4. He also boasted of his knowledge of God's will. Look at the light we have, he said, we are not ignorant heathen. We know what God has said. 5. He was equally proud of the fact that he approved, and agreed with, the Law in which he had been instructed. 6. He thus conceitedly considered himself to be competent to guide the blind, to give light to the world, to correct the foolish, and to teach the Gentiles whom he despised. He was inflated with a sense of his own superiority. 7. We, and we alone, have the truth, he proudly asserted. Paul does not deny this, but his aim is to show that the Jew was pompous about it, and not full of humble gratitude.

The Jew of Paul's day considered that there was no one quite like him. He was special. God has treated him differently from everybody else. How could he believe that he would be treated in exactly the same way as all the others at a future judgement?

Many fall into this same way of thinking. Perhaps there are some reading this who consider that God has been especially kind to them, in that He has brought them to possess His Word, to understand a good deal of it, and to love it. They are certain that they alone can guide straying feet, and give light to a dark world. And now they have become proud of it. Perhaps you are such a person. We will look at what Paul says to them next week.

- questions**
1. What were the Jews proud of?
 2. What should have been their attitude?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 32:1-6
1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



Fri.
19th April

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
Romans 5:2

reading Romans 2:17-29 - It Could Never Happen To Me

notes Paul's teaching on the judgement is very clear. But many men and women will not accept this truth. It is written in their consciences that God will judge them, yet they will not admit it.

The Jew of Paul's day simply could not believe that God would treat him in the same way as everybody else. After all, when he was very young he had been circumcised as a sign that he was a member of the nation with which God had made a covenant. Unlike the heathen, he was in possession of God's Law. He just could not accept that he was as certain to be judged as were less privileged people. It could never happen to me, he said.

There are such people today. Many of them are those who have been baptised, hear God's Word regularly, and attend church. They can believe that others, perhaps, are heading for judgement. But they cannot believe it of themselves. They are sufficiently self-deceived to think that they may be able to please God. When they are confronted with the truth of judgement, they too tend to say, It could never happen to me.

Paul's answer to such people is verse 13: For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. In the verses before us, Paul expands this teaching. He makes it impossible for anyone to miss the point. This passage is for all who have ever thought about the judgement, It could never happen to me.

questions

1. What did the Jews think about themselves?
2. Why were they wrong?

praise pray Ps. 31:19-24

1. Pray for humility.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Tue.
16th April

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
Romans 5:2

reading Romans 2:6-11 - Impartial

notes We are looking at the fact that judgement is made according to a person's deeds. Look at verses 7 and 10 and imagine a person full of desire for heaven. He does good, and never lets up in his well-doing. He seeks to be honoured by God, and considers that only His approval counts. He will be rewarded according to his deeds! His reward will be eternal life, glory, honour, and peace. However, there is just one problem here. You are not a person like that, nor am I, and nor is any person anywhere, except Christ. Nonetheless, the principle still stands. If there were such a person, then this would be true of him. It is because there is no such person that this letter has been written. It shows how sinners may be received by God.

Look at verses 8-9 and imagine yet another person. He is utterly self-centred, and will not acknowledge God's lordship over him. He refuses to obey God's Word, but because there is no such thing as a spiritual vacuum, he does obey unrighteousness. Every such person will be judged according to his deeds. If you are such a person, this is true of you. God's displeasure is against all such people. His anger is rising against them. The result for every such person will be suffering and anguish, pain and agony.

Judgement will be completely impartial. What has been said about punishment and reward applies to the Jew first and also to the Gentile for God is entirely impartial (verses 9-11). The Jew has no special status, and the Gentile has no disadvantage. The treatment is the same for all. God has no favourites. He cannot be bribed. His justice is absolute, and His righteousness perfect. He is not one degree more harsh or a detail more lenient than our sins deserve. Everyone will be judged as he deserves to be with no cause for complaint.

questions

1. Who is the only one who was ever perfect?
2. What do these verses teach us about God?

praise pray Ps. 31:1-6

1. Give thanks that Christ is perfect.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Wed.
17th April

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
Romans 5:2

reading Romans 2:12-15 - The Law of God

notes The judgement will be based on the Law of God. This is made clear in verses 12-15. Let us consider the case of a heathen Gentile. He has never seen a copy of God's Law, nor even heard of it. Yet look at his actions. They reveal that he has some sense of law; and that law is the Law of God! He believes that parents should be honoured. He resents the theft of his property. He protects the lives of his loved ones against those who seek to harm or kill them. He is adamant that it is wrong for another man to take his wife. He clearly has some sense of the 5th - 8th commandments.

He has never been taught the Ten Commandments, so this sense of law is not due to that. It is part of who he is as a man. The law is in his heart. He has a conscience which passes judgement upon both his own conduct and the conduct of others; and he concludes that some of it is right, and some is wrong. This ability to distinguish between good and evil is not always very clear, but it is there! He does have law.

But does he obey that law? No; he sins against it repeatedly. He is a deliberate lawbreaker - just as we read in chapter 1. His life is not pleasing to God, and he is perishing.

All this is the teaching of verses 12a, 14, and 15. These verses clearly explain what happens to the heathen. He does not have the same measure of light as others, but he does have some light. He has sufficient knowledge of God, His Law, and His judgement to be utterly inexcusable. He is not without light. Yet he persists in sinning against the light he has. Heathen men and women are perishing. Let us send them the gospel!

questions

1. What will judgement be based on?
2. Why are men without excuse?

praise pray Ps. 31:7-12

1. Pray for the church's mission works.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Thur.
18th April

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
Romans 5:2

reading Romans 2:12-16 - Without Excuse

notes Let us now consider the case of the Jew. He is much better off than the heathen Gentile. He has the Law and is well acquainted with it. However, it is not possessing the Law which gives a man right standing with God, but doing it. And he does not do it. Paul insists that the very Law he has broken will be the standard by which he will be judged. This is the teaching of verses 12b and 13.

It is impossible to mistake what Paul is saying. The law which a man has is the standard by which he will be judged. But all men, to a lesser or greater degree, have the Law of God! Some have it as a written code, and so, naturally, more is expected of them. To whom much is given, of him shall much be required. Some have the Law written only in their hearts. But God still expects them to keep it. But neither group lives according to the light that it has. The heathen is not so blameworthy as the privileged Jew. But both groups are guilty. So both are perishing.

The decisive test in both cases is the Law of God, which both have failed to keep. Judgement is made according to the Law! It is inaccurate and misleading to tell people that they will be judged on the basis of whether they have accepted Christ or not. We should tell them that the basis of judgement will be the Law of God. When a person truly realises this, he is driven to despair. He gives up all hope of ever saving himself. What good news it is for him then to hear what Christ has done for sinners.

Verse 16 stresses that God will judge not only those things which men have witnessed, but those things which have been secret. This specific judgement day is a key part of the gospel that Paul has been sent by God to proclaim.

questions

1. Why is more expected of those who have the law?
2. Can anything be hid from God?

praise pray Ps. 31:13-18

1. Give thanks for God's mercy in providing a way of salvation.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.