

Romans 2 Plank eye

I am going to make you aware right off the bat; this portion of scripture has the ability to tear you up, I know it did me, it reveals the intent of our hearts.

I will be very honest with you about myself and the things revealed; I hope you allow yourself to be honest with what the Holy Spirit has to say this morning about your own heart.

Be truthful and honest with yourself.

Let us remember where we left off...

As Paul revealed the wrath of God against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men!

Rom 1:27

27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

Rom. 1:28-32

28 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; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

Rom. 1:32

32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are **deserving of death**, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

HOW Did THESE THINGS from last week MAKE YOU FEEL?

HOW HORRIBLE, HOW DISGUSTING, WHO COULD DO SUCH THINGS?

THE WRATH OF GOD IS REVEALED, HE HAS GIVEN THEM OVER TO A DEBASED MIND –

THEY DESERVE IT; AFTER ALL LOOK WHAT THEY ARE DOING...

WELL, THAT IS the normal response, PAUL LISTS ALL KINDS OF EVILS IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE FIRST CHAPTER,

AND HE WILL SPEND THE WHOLE CH. 2 ON, WHAT I BELIEVE IS THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE MINDSET IN The Jewish Christian of Paul's day and the Church today...

Hypocrisy

You see Paul last time had the religious man cheering! Get them Paul! You tell them what filth they are!

And Paul will stop their applause and cheering in mid clap next!

And turns gears almost immediately and preaches right at the cheering section of the self-righteous.

Rom 2

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. 2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN Paul?

I DON'T DO THOSE NASTY THINGS, THOSE FILTHY THINGS. I DON'T CHEAT ON MY WIFE,

I DON'T STEAL, I AM NOT VIOLENT, AND I AM A GOOD PERSON.

Let's READ WHAT JESUS SAYS:

Matt 5:21-22

21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, '*You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause* shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.**

Matt 5:27

"You have heard that it was said to those of old,* '*You shall not commit adultery. 28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**

WE SEE IT IS A MATTER OF OUR HEART, DO YOU LOOK AT THAT woman WITH LUST IN YOUR HEART, DO YOU COVET YOUR NIEGHBOR'S TRUCK, DO YOU HATE SOMEONE SO MUCH, YOU WISH THEY WERE DEAD?

THEN YOU ARE JUST AS GUILTY– YOUR HEART MAKES YOU GUILTY....

YOU CAN FOOL EVERYONE AROUND YOU, YOU CAN LOOK GOOD ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT GOD SEES RIGHT TO OUR HEARTS....

Paul continues on...

Rom 2:3

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?

And now the religious man is getting pretty squirmy, Paul just took him from his high ground, and put him on level ground with the wicked!

The self-righteous man, is the most deceived man.

Now I believe something is terribly wrong in today's Christianity.

WHEN WE THINK THOSE WHO DON'T BELIEVE WHAT WE BELIEVE NEED TO ACT A CERTAIN WAY, OR NEED TO LIVE ACCORDING TO OUR VIEWS AND BELIEFS.

Now WE CAN'T EXPECT AN UNBELIEVING PEOPLE TO LIVE IN OBEDIENCE TO OUR BIBLE.

THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW THE TRUTHS OF GOD.

THE WORLD IS DOING ONLY THAT WHICH THEY KNOW TO DO, THEY ARE SURVIVING, ON THEIR OWN, WITHOUT ALMIGHTY GOD FIGHTING FOR THEM. THEY HAVE NO REST FOR THEIR SOULS.

THEY ARE IN CONSTANT TURMOIL, CONSTANT AGONY, THEY DON'T KNOW OF JEHOVAH JIREH, THEY HAVE NO IDEA THERE IS A GOD WHO WILL PROVIDE THEIR EVERY NEED.

THEY ARE PROVIDING FOR THEMSELVES. SO THEY RESORT TO STEALING, CHEATING, THEY USE PEOPLE TO GET AHEAD, THEY DO THINGS TO SURVIVE.

WE tend to get IN AN UPROAR ABOUT GAY MARRIAGE, AND WE LOOK AT THEM IN DISGUST, WE ASK HOW CAN THEY DO SOMETHING SO SICK, WHAT IS UN-NATURAL.

BUT THEY HAVE NOTHING TO LOOK TO, WE ARE CALLED TO REPRESENT CHRIST AND THE CHURCH WITH OUR MARRIAGES.

AND DIVORCE IS Becoming a more normal thing AMONG US.

WE CAN'T EVEN SET THE EXAMPLE WE ARE CALLED TO SET.

HUSBANDS AND FATHERS LIVING FOR THEMSELVES INSTEAD OF THEIR FAMILIES, WALKING OUT ON THEM, TO CHASE THEIR OWN FANTASIES AND LUSTS.

WIVES AND MOTHERS LEAVING THEIR FAMILIES TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES,

BECAUSE THEY JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE, AND THEY WANT TO LIVE FOR THEMSELVES.

I HAVE SOMEONE CLOSE TO ME, WHOSE WIFE LEFT HIM AND 4 DAUGHTERS, FOR HER OWN PLEASURES, SHE TOLD THE FATHER TO TELL THE KIDS SHE WAS DEAD. THEY CALLED THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS.

I HAVE BEEN DIVORCED, I AM ASHAMED OF IT, I CALLED MYSELF A CHRISTIAN, ME AND MY EX-WIFE.

ALL MY FRIENDS, ALL MY FAMILY, AND MY CO-WORKERS HEARD US AT OUR WEDDING

COMMIT OURSELVES TO EACH OTHER, IN A CHRISTIAN CEREMONY BEFORE GOD.

WHAT A JOKE WE WERE TO ALL THOSE UNBELIEVERS, WHO WATCHED THAT DAY.

WE WANT TO STOP ABORTIONS, WE THINK THAT AN UNBELIEVER SHOULD WANT TO DO THE SAME; WE CONDEMN THE YOUNG GIRLS WHO HAVE THE PROCEDURE.

WHEN IN THEIR MINDS, THEY ARE FACING THE REALITY OF RAISING A CHILD ALONE MOST OF THE TIME, WITH LITTLE OR NO INCOME, THEY HAVE NO IDEA THERE IS A GOD WHO WILL PROVIDE FOR THIS LITTLE ONE.

MAYBE INSTEAD OF POINTING THE FINGER, WE CAN SHARE THE TRUTH WITH THESE YOUNG LADIES.

IT IS MORE THEN, TELLING THEM THE FACTS, AND CONVINCING THEM OTHERWISE.

BUT MAYBE AS A CHURCH, REPRESENTING ALMIGHTY GOD WE CAN COME ALONG SIDE THESE GIRLS AND HELP THEM, INSTEAD OF LAYING GUILT, WE CAN OFFER THE HELP THEY NEED TO RAISE THE CHILD.

BUT THAT REQUIRES A COMMITMENT.

NOT JUST an IDEA, OR THOUGHT, BUT ACTION.

NOT JUST HOLDING A SIGN ON A CORNER, BUT A HAND OUT TO HELP, AND SHOW LOVE.

AT THE AGE OF 20, MY GIRLFRIEND CAME UP PREGNANT, WE WERE YOUNG, WE DIDN'T WANT THE RESPONSABILTY OF A CHILD, WE WERE ASHAMED TO TELL OUR FAMILIES.

SO WE WENT TO THE CLINIC, AND MURDERED OUR BABY, WE BOTH CALLED OURSELVES CHRISTIANS.

OUR FRIENDS, AND CO-WORKERS NEW ABOUT IT.

I STOOD ON STREET CORNERS WITH HUNDREDS OF OTHER CHRISTIANS PROTESTING ABORTIONS GROWING UP, AND WHEN THE CHOICE CAME MY WAY I FAILED TO SET THE EXAMPLE TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

You know I WOULD HAVE two teenagers right now, BUT NOW I STAND BEFORE YOU A MURDERER.

WITH OUR WORDS WE DESTROY THE OTHER SIDE, WE CONDEMN THEM WITH THE GUILT OF OUR OWN LIVES AND OUR ACTIONS ARE EMPTY.

We think we can change them by changing laws, but we are missing our true responsibility, and that is to Love them, and bring them the Gospel.

Changing the Law will not change their hearts. I heard on the news a while back, of Christians protesting a strip club, then the strippers protested the church in bikinis, protest will not save those strippers from their painful lifestyle.

GOD FORGIVE US.

AND THIS IS RIGHT WHERE PAUL WANTS THE READER RIGHT NOW.

HE WANTS US looking into our own hearts, and seeing who are we to even be saved?

HE WANTS YOU LOOKING INTO YOUR OWN HEART AND REALIZING WE ARE NO ONE TO JUGDE.

When we truly look at ourselves compared to scripture we are just as vile, and sick as the group Paul introduced us too last time.

It is only by the grace of God can we call ourselves saved, not by our good deeds or charity.

MATT 7:1-5

7 "JUDGE NOT, THAT YOU BE NOT JUDGED. 2 FOR WITH WHAT JUDGMENT YOU JUDGE, YOU WILL BE JUDGED; AND WITH THE MEASURE YOU USE, IT WILL BE MEASURED BACK TO YOU. 3 AND WHY DO YOU LOOK AT THE SPECK IN YOUR BROTHER'S EYE, BUT DO NOT CONSIDER THE PLANK IN YOUR OWN EYE? 4 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? 5 HYPOCRITE! FIRST REMOVE THE PLANK FROM YOUR OWN EYE, AND THEN YOU WILL SEE CLEARLY TO REMOVE THE SPECK FROM YOUR BROTHER'S EYE.

PLANK DEMONSTRATION

DO YOU REALIZE HOW PAINFUL IT WOULD BE TO PULL A PLANK FROM YOUR EYE?

OR A SUPPORT BEAM AT THAT?

DO YOU THINK PULLING THIS OUT IS AN EASY PAINLESS THING TO DO?

NO WAY! IT WOULD TAKE TIME, IT WOULD BE PAINFUL, IT WOULD TAKE CAREFUL PERSISSION.

IT WOULD LEAVE SCARS, IT WOULD BE SOMETHING WE WOULD NEVER FORGET, AND NEVER WANT TO GO THROUGH AGAIN.

BUT SO OFTEN, WE DON'T EVEN ADDRESS THE PLANK IN OUR EYE.

WE FOCUS ON EVERYONE'S SPECKS, WE BECOME SPECK POLICE.

YOU KNOW HOW WEIRD IT IS TO HAVE THIS HUGE THING IN YOUR EYE OR YOUR LIFE, AND YOU ARE TRYING TO REMOVE SOMEONE'S LITTLE SPECK OR PROBLEM.

IF YOU HAVE THIS HUGE ISSUE IN YOUR OWN LIFE, AND YOU ARE TRYING TO CONDEMN EVERYONE ELSE,

WELL, THIS IS HEAVY DUTY. IT IS NOT A LIGHT WEIGHT MATTER.

NOT A GOOD PLACE

YOU HEAR OF A HUSBAND CHEATING ON HIS WIFE, YOU SAY “HOW COULD HE”

BUT YOUR OWN EYES ARE LOOKING AT FILTH ON YOUR COMPUTER EVERYTIME YOU ARE ALONE.

YOU ARE DISGRACING YOUR WIFE BY FANTISIZING OVER FILTH ON THE COMPUTER.

WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO THINK SOMEONE HAS MESSED UP TOO MUCH TO BE COVERED IN THAT SAME AMAZING GRACE WE WERE WASHED WITH.

I’VE HAVE BEEN CAUGHT IN THIS TRAP OF HYPOCRACY MANY TIMES, AND THE LORD HAS REALLY HAD TO SHOW ME WHO I REALLY WAS, IT WAS NOT FUN.

MATT MOONEY’S WEDDING

THEY WERE AMAZED HOW CALM I STAYED. I ALMOST BLEW IT.

OFTEN THE SINS WE NOTICE MOST CLEARLY IN OTHERS ARE THE ONES THAT HAVE TAKEN ROOT IN US OR WE STRUGGLED WITH IN THE PAST.

IF WE LOOK CLOSELY AT OURSELVES, WE MAY FIND THAT WE ARE COMMITTING THE SAME SIN.

THE UNRIGHTEOUS EXCUSE THEMSELVES WHILE CONDEMNING OTHERS.

THE TRULY RIGHTEOUS OVERLOOK FAULTS IN OTHERS BUT TRY TO SEE THEIR OWN FAULTS.

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LET'S LOOK AT THE NEXT VERSE IN ROMANS...

4 OR DO YOU DESPISE THE RICHES OF HIS GOODNESS, FORBEARANCE, AND LONGSUFFERING, NOT KNOWING THAT THE GOODNESS OF GOD LEADS YOU TO REPENTANCE? 5 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, 6 WHO "WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS":*

THERE IS A FAIR AND RIGHT JUDGEMENT COMING.

IT WILL BE PURE, NOTHING HIDDEN FROM HIM ON THAT DAY.

**THAT KNOWLEDGE SHOULD HAVE US
LOOKING INWARD, NOT OUTWARD.**

**WE NEED TO REMEMBER THE PAIN AND THE
PROCESS OF REMOVING A PLANK, IT HURTS.**

**TELL STORY OF THE NIEGHBOR. HE WANTED
PRAYER THE FIRST TIME BECAUSE HE WAS
FACING LIFE IN PRISON.**

**I PRAYED FOR HIM, I APPEALED TO GOD'S
MERCY.**

**AND GOD SPARRED HIM OF THAT
SENTENCE.**

**BUT OUR NIEGHBOR CONTINUED DOWN
THAT ROAD OF ADDICTION EVEN AFTER
THAT ENCOUNTER.**

**HE WOULD COME OUT OFTEN SPUN OUT OF
HIS MIND, WE COULD NOT EVEN MAKE
SENCE OF HIS WORDS AT TIMES.**

**I WANTED TO JUDGE HIM IN HIS ADDICTIONS,
I EVEN WANTED TO JUDGE HIS WIFE FOR
BEING A STRIPPER.**

**THEY HAD KIDS, AND IT WAS EASY FOR ME
TO STAND ON MY MORAL HIGH GROUND.**

BUT ONE DAY OUR NIEGHBOR CAME TO ME BROKEN, WANTED TO BREAK FREE OF HIS ADDICTIONS.

HE WAS A BIG, BIG GUY, AND JUST WEEPING, WANTING HELP.

I DID AT FIRST HAVE THE THOUGHT, YOU ARE REAPING WHAT YOU HAVE SOWN, AND THIS IS WHAT YOU DESERVE.

I COULD HAVE POINTED OUT EVERYTHING IN HIS LIFE THAT WAS WRONG.

LOOK AT THE PLANK

BUT INSTEAD I REMEMBERED, THE PAIN OF ADDICTION, THE PROCESS IT TOOK FOR IT TO BE REMOVED, THE HURT, AND THE SCARS I STILL HAVE, AND I CRIED WITH HIM INSTEAD.

I FELT THE PAIN WITH MY NIEGHBOR. I HAD NO MORAL GROUND TO STAND, AS I REMEMBERED HOW HARD IT WAS TO QUIT THE ADDICTIONS I WAS BOUND TO AT ONE TIME.

I CAN ONLY OFFER THIS MAN THE HOPE THAT I RECEIVED FROM CHRIST.

JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GET THIS THING OUT OF YOUR LIFE, I TELL HIM OF MY PAINFUL PROCESS OF REMOVING THE PLANK.

I TELL HIM OF MY SCARS, I CAN ONLY OFFER HIM AN INVITE TO CHURCH, AND PRAYER, AND WORDS OF COMFORT FROM JESUS.

I KNOW IT'S POSSIBLE, I'VE SEEN THE POWER OF GOD IN MY LIFE.

THERE IS HOPE.

IT IS THE GOODNESS OF GOD THAT WILL LEAD THIS MAN TO REPENTENCE.

MY NIEGHBOR EVENTUALLY RESPONDED TO THE SIMPLE INVITE TO CHURCH.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT, BECAUSE THE LORD STOPPED ME FROM JUDGING MY NIEGHBOR.

WELL THE LORD USED MY WIFE AS THE VOICE, SHE WAS ALWAYS PRAYING FOR HIM AND HIS WIFE. AND STOPPING ME IN MY JUDGMENTS.

SO BECAUSE NIEGHBOR WAS MET WITH LOVE, UNDERSTANDING, HE WAS MET WITH SOMEONE WHO REMEMBERED THIS THING(PLANK), HE CAME TO CHRIST ON

EASTER OF LAST YEAR, HIS WIFE CAME SHORTLY AFTER, AND THEIR CHILDREN.

THEY ARE NOW AT CHURCH EVERYTIME THOSE CHURCH DOORS ARE OPEN IN APPLE VALLEY.

MY NIEGHBOR AND HIS WIFE ARE A REMINDER FOR ME NOT TO COUNT ANYONE TO FAR GONE.

YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE?

THERE WERE MY DAUGHTERS BEAMING BROWN EYES WATCHING EVERY ENCOUNTER, AND LISTENING TO EVERY WORD ME AND MOM SHARED.

HER LITTLE EYES SAW OUR NIEGHBOR CHANGE.

SHE WITNESSED FROM THE BEGINNING WHAT JESUS DID IN OUR NIEGHBOR.

YOU SEE WE NEED TO REPRESENT GOD'S GOODNESS, NOT HIS ANGER

AND HIS FORBEARANCE, NOT HIS JUDGEMENTS:

THE ACT OF FORBEARING MEANS TO HAVE PERSISTENT ENDURANCE; SELF-CONTROL. IT'S AN ABSTAINING FROM THE ENFORCEMENT OF A RIGHT.

AND WE NEED TO REPRESENT HIS LONGSUFFERING, WHICH IS PATIENCE, NOT QUICK FIXES

KNOWING THAT THE GOODNESS OF GOD LEADS US TO REPENTANCE?

IT IS NOT OUR RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENTS OF WHAT WE THINK PEOPLE SHOULD BE.

BUT OUR REPRESENTATION OF WHO GOD IS THAT WILL BRING PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE.

WE HAVE TO BE PATIENT, SUFFER LONG WITH THEM, SHOW GRACE, JUST LIKE OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.

WITH MY OLD NEIGHBOR, THAT WAS YEARS OF ENCOUNTERS BEFORE HE RESPONDED.

YOU KNOW WE ARE TRYING TO CHANGE LAWS, TO GET OUR MESSAGE OUT;

THE LAW HAS NEVER CHANGED ANYONES HEART, ONLY THE GOSPEL HAS.

WE ARE ANGRY WITH THE OTHER SIDE, MAYBE WE SHOULD LOVE THEM INSTEAD.

AND HOPING THAT THE SAME GOSPEL, THE SAME JESUS THAT DRUG US OUT OF THE GUTTER WILL DO THE SAME WITH THEM.

HE WILL NOT DO IT WITH THE LAW, BUT WITH THE SAME SAVING GRACE WE RECEIVED.

THE LAW OF GOD HAS ONLY ONE PURPOSE, TO SHOW YOU HOW UGLY YOU ARE,

WITHOUT THE GRACE OF GOD PREACHED; THEY WILL STAY CONDEMNED BY THAT LAW.

THIS IS WHAT THE PRIEST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WERE COMMANDED TO TELL THE PEOPLE:

NUM 6:24-27

**24 "THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU;
25 THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE UPON YOU,**

AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU;
 26 THE LORD LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE
 UPON YOU,
 AND GIVE YOU PEACE."

27 "SO THEY SHALL PUT MY NAME ON THE
 CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, AND I WILL BLESS
 THEM."

WHO DOES YOUR FACE REPRESENT, A
 CONDEMNING GOD, OR A MERCIFUL,
 FORGIVING GOD, WHO IS FULL OF GRACE
 AND COMPASSION?

WHY DOES PAUL GET US TO THIS POINT, OF
 LOW? WELL HE GETS EVERY READER
 FEELING LIKE WE ARE NOTHING?

IT IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE WE ARE
 TRULY AWARE OF OUR NEED FOR GOD.

PROV 26:12

12 DO YOU SEE A MAN WISE IN HIS OWN
 EYES?

THERE IS MORE HOPE FOR A FOOL THAN
 FOR HIM.

WHEN WE SEE GOD FOR WHO HE IS, AND
 SEE OURSELVES AS WE TRULY ARE, THEN
 GOD CAN DO AN AMAZING WORK.

THEN THE CHURCH WILL STEP UP AND DO WHAT IT IS SUPPOSED TO, REACH THE LEAST OF THESE.

LET'S LOOK TO THE BEATITUDES IN LUKE:

Luke 6:20-26

20 Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said:

"Blessed *are you* poor,
For yours is the kingdom of God.

21 Blessed *are you* who hunger now,
For you shall be filled.

Blessed *are you* who weep now,
For you shall laugh.

22 Blessed are you when men hate you,
And when they exclude you,
And revile *you*, and cast out your name as evil,
For the Son of Man's sake.

23 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy!
For indeed your reward *is* great in heaven,
For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.

24 "But woe to you who are rich,
For you have received your consolation.

25 Woe to you who are full,
For you shall hunger.

Woe to you who laugh now,
For you shall mourn and weep.

26 Woe to you* when all* men speak well of you,
For so did their fathers to the false prophets.

WE NEED TO SEE OURSELVES AS POOR AND NEEDY, WHEN WE THINK WE HAVE IT TOGETHER, WE ARE IN TROUBLE.

THIS IS WHERE THE TRUE HEART OF WORSHIP IS FOUND. A LOW AND CONTRITE HEART.

WHEN WE SEE OURSELVES THIS WAY, OUR EYES WILL BE OPENED TO THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED AROUND US.

BUT WHEN WE LOOK AT OUR LIFE, AND THINK “MAN, I HAVE IT TOGETHER, LOOK AT WHAT I ACCOMPLISHED, YOU ARE IN DANGER.”

WHEN YOU SEE YOUR NEED FOR JESUS, YOUR BROKEN STATE, FIXED ONLY BY YOUR FAITH IN WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR YOU.

YOU WILL WANT TO REACH THOSE WHO ARE BROKEN, AND OFFER THE SAME GIFT TO THEM.

TURN WITH ME TOO...

MATT 25:31-40

31 "WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMES IN HIS GLORY, AND ALL THE HOLY* ANGELS WITH HIM, THEN HE WILL SIT ON THE THRONE OF

HIS GLORY. **32** ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE GATHERED BEFORE HIM, AND HE WILL SEPARATE THEM ONE FROM ANOTHER, AS A SHEPHERD DIVIDES *HIS* SHEEP FROM THE GOATS. **33** AND HE WILL SET THE SHEEP ON HIS RIGHT HAND, BUT THE GOATS ON THE LEFT. **34** THEN THE KING WILL SAY TO THOSE ON HIS RIGHT HAND, 'COME, YOU BLESSED OF MY FATHER, INHERIT THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD: **35** FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD; I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK; I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU TOOK ME IN; **36** I WAS NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME; I WAS SICK AND YOU VISITED ME; I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO ME.'

37 "THEN THE RIGHTEOUS WILL ANSWER HIM, SAYING, 'LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU HUNGRY AND FEED *YOU*, OR THIRSTY AND GIVE *YOU* DRINK? **38** WHEN DID WE SEE YOU A STRANGER AND TAKE *YOU* IN, OR NAKED AND CLOTHE *YOU*? **39** OR WHEN DID WE SEE YOU SICK, OR IN PRISON, AND COME TO YOU?' **40** AND THE KING WILL ANSWER AND SAY TO THEM, 'ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, INASMUCH AS YOU DID *IT* TO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN, YOU DID *IT* TO ME.'

YOU SEE WE WILL WANT TO GO TO THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS, MINISTER TO PRISONERS, CLOTHE THE NAKED, FEED THE HUNGRY, WELCOME THE STRANGER, OFFER HOPE TO THE SINNER.

OUR HEARTS SHOULD BE HUMBLLED BY GOD'S GRACE, THAT WE WANT TO PASS IT ON.

WOULDN'T YOU AGREE, THIS IS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY?

TURN WITH ME BACK TO ROMANS, AS PAUL CONTINUES ON...

HE SAYS NOW...

7 ETERNAL LIFE TO THOSE WHO BY PATIENT CONTINUANCE IN DOING GOOD SEEK FOR GLORY, HONOR, AND IMMORTALITY; 8 BUT TO THOSE WHO ARE SELF-SEEKING AND DO NOT OBEY THE TRUTH, BUT OBEY UNRIGHTEOUSNESS — INDIGNATION AND WRATH,

9 TRIBULATION AND ANGUISH, ON EVERY SOUL OF MAN WHO DOES EVIL, OF THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO OF THE GREEK; 10 BUT GLORY, HONOR, AND PEACE TO EVERYONE WHO WORKS WHAT IS GOOD, TO THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO TO THE GREEK. 11 FOR THERE IS NO PARTIALITY WITH GOD.

PAUL AGAIN SHOWS US THE CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE.

AND THE LIFE OFFERED THROUGH OBEDIENCE.

AND PAUL'S MAIN POINT IS THAT GOD'S JUDGMENT IS BASED ON TRUTH AND RESULTS, NOT ON WHO WE ARE, WHERE WE CAME FROM, OUR UPBRINGING, OR OUR INTENTIONS.

THE FINAL QUESTION WILL BE, WHAT DID YOU DO WITH WHAT YOU KNEW?

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ROM 2:11 SHOWS US...

GOD DOES NOT SHOW FAVORITISM.

MOST PEOPLE THINK THERE IS THIS GOOD SCALE, "IF I JUST DO ENOUGH GOOD TO GET OVER INTO THE GOOD SIDE I WILL BE FINE."

THE JEWS THOUGHT BECAUSE THEIR FATHER WAS ABRAHAM, THEY WERE OK, AND GOD FAVORED THEM.

BUT GOD DOES NOT SHOW FAVORITISM.

THEY BLATANTLY HOPE THAT GOD WILL SHOW FAVORITISM.

ROM 2:11 OBLITERATES THAT HOPE.

THERE IS NO PASSING LINE. INSTEAD, SIN HAS CREATED A MORAL CHASM OVER WHICH NO ONE CAN LEAP.

THE GOSPEL GIVES US A WAY TO REACH THE OTHER SIDE.

GOD OFFERS US SOMETHING FAR BETTER THAN FAVORITISM.

HE OFFERS GRACE.

HAVING CHRISTIAN PARENTS OR ATTENDING THE CHURCH OF OUR ANCESTORS DOES NOT GUARANTEE ONE'S SALVATION.

SALVATION IS GIVEN TO INDIVIDUALS ON THE BASIS OF PERSONAL FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.

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WE ALL HAVE TO COME THROUGH THE GOSPEL, WE CANNOT THINK GOD FAVORS US MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, BUT ONLY THROUGH HIS SON CAN WE COME TO HIM.

LOOK AT VERSE 12...

12 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

THE JEWS HAD THE WRITTEN LAW, SO THEY WILL BE JUDGED BY IT.

13 (FOR NOT THE HEARERS OF THE LAW *ARE* JUST IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, BUT THE DOERS OF THE LAW WILL BE JUSTIFIED;

THE JEWS WHO FAITHFULLY ATTENDED SYNAGOGUE WEEK AFTER WEEK, LEARNING IT, WERE EXPECTED TO LIVE IT.

WE LIVE IN A TIME WHERE WE HAVE SUCH AN ABUNDANCE OF THE WORD.

WE COME WEEK AFTER WEEK TO LEARN THIS STUFF.

BUT IF YOU ARE JUST TAKING IT IN AS HEAD KNOWLEDGE, YOU ARE MISSING OUT, WE NEED TO PRACTICE IT.

WE CAN'T EXPERIENCE THE THINGS WE KNOW OF GOD IF WE DO NOT GET OUT AND APPLY WHAT WE LEARNED.

IT WILL JUST PUFF US UP WITH PRIDE.

WE ALL KNOW THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAVE A BUNCH OF BIBLE AND DO NOTHING.

WE NEED TO LIVE THIS STUFF OUT. THAT MAKES US HUMBLE.

HE IS AT WORK ALL AROUND US, HE IS NOT LIMITED TO SPACE OR TIME, THE PEOPLE YOU COME ACROSS DAILY.

THEY ARE THERE FOR A REASON, REACH OUT WITH THE THINGS YOU ARE LEARNING HERE WEEK AFTER WEEK.

ROM 2:13 SPEAKS OF...

FAMILIARITY AND CONTEMPT

FOR SOME PEOPLE, BEING FAMILIAR WITH THE SCRIPTURES HAS LED TO CONTEMPT.

THE WORD OF GOD HAS BEEN HEARD, BUT NOT OBEYED.

IN SOME PLACES, THE GOSPEL HAS BEEN PRESENT FOR GENERATIONS, BUT THE LIFE-CHANGING MESSAGE HAS BEEN BURIED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF TRADITIONS AND STRUCTURES.

THESE PEOPLE WILL BE JUDGED, JUST AS WILL THE JEWISH PEOPLE OF PAUL'S DAY.

PEOPLE TODAY OFTEN SUBSTITUTE CHURCH SIZE, A PASTOR'S POPULARITY, THE NUMBER OF BIBLES OWNED, AND OTHER RELIGIOUS FACTS AND ASSETS FOR THEIR PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY BEFORE GOD.

PAUL WANTED HIS READERS TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION: 'HOW CAN I BE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS?'

IT IS A QUESTION WE ALSO MUST ANSWER.

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LOOKS AT VERSE 14

14 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, **15** 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*) **16** IN THE DAY WHEN GOD WILL JUDGE THE SECRETS OF MEN BY JESUS CHRIST, ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL.

WHATEVER BACKGROUND WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD.

SOME HAVEN'T HEARD THE GOSPEL, OR THE BIBLE, THEY WILL BE JUDGED BY THE MORAL CODE WRITTEN ON THEIR HEARTS.

THERE MIGHT BE GOOD IN PEOPLE, BUT WE CAN NEVER MEET THE PERFECTION THAT IS REQUIRED OF US.

EVEN IF WE HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAW WE HAVE A SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG, AND NONE OF US CAN EVEN LIVE UP TO THE STANDARD OF OUR OWN HEART,

REGARDLESS IF WE HAVE HEARD THE WORD OR NOT, WE ALL FALL SHORT.

THERE WAS A TIME, I THOUGHT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD OBEY THE SPEED LIMIT TO THE "T". COP IN HAVASU AFTER DRIVING PERFECT – I KEPT THE SPEED LIMIT, THE WHOLE TIME...

YOU SEE IN THIS LIFE WE CAN GIVE OUR BEST EFFORTS, BUT WE CAN NEVER LIVE UP TO EVEN OUR OWN STANDARDS

ONLY BY GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND HIS SON'S SACRIFICE CAN WE FILL THAT VOID,

AND BRING US TO THAT PLACE OF PEACE WITH GOD, AND OURSELVES.

NOW VERSE 17

17 INDEED* YOU ARE CALLED A JEW, AND REST ON THE LAW, AND MAKE YOUR BOAST IN GOD, **18** AND KNOW *HIS* WILL, AND APPROVE THE THINGS THAT ARE EXCELLENT, BEING INSTRUCTED OUT OF THE LAW, **19** AND ARE CONFIDENT THAT YOU YOURSELF ARE A GUIDE TO THE BLIND, A LIGHT TO THOSE WHO ARE IN DARKNESS, **20** AN INSTRUCTOR OF THE FOOLISH, A TEACHER OF BABES, HAVING THE FORM OF KNOWLEDGE AND TRUTH IN THE LAW. **21** YOU, THEREFORE, WHO TEACH ANOTHER, DO YOU NOT TEACH YOURSELF? YOU WHO PREACH THAT A MAN SHOULD NOT STEAL, DO YOU STEAL? **22** YOU WHO SAY, "DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," DO YOU COMMIT ADULTERY? YOU WHO ABHOR IDOLS, DO YOU ROB TEMPLES? **23** YOU WHO MAKE YOUR BOAST IN THE LAW, DO YOU DISHONOR GOD THROUGH BREAKING THE LAW? **24** FOR "*THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU,*"* AS IT IS WRITTEN.

THE JEWS WERE THE PEOPLE CHOSEN TO BRING THE MESSIAH TO THE NATIONS.

TO TEACH THE WAY TO GOD, THEY WERE GIVEN THE ORACLES OF GOD AS WE WILL SEE IN THE NEXT CHAPTER.

INSTEAD OF LEADING THE NATIONS IN WHAT WAS TRUE, THEY TOOK PRIDE IN THEIR PRIVILEGE, AND THOUGHT BEING A JEW ALONE WAS ENOUGH,

BUT PAUL CONFRONTS THEM, AND SAYS IF THEY CALL THEMSELVES A JEW, THEIR LIVES NEED TO LIVE UP TO IT.

THE SAME FOR US.... IF WE CALL OURSELVES CHRISTIAN, OUR LIVES NEED TO LINE UP WITH THAT.

GOD IS EXPECTING US TO LIVE OUT WHAT WE BELIEVE, NOT TO EXPECT EVERYONE ELSE TO LIVE BY WHAT WE KNOW.

SPIRITUAL PRIDE, SEEMS TO BE ONE OF THE WORST SINS, ALL THESE OTHER UGLY SINS WERE CLUMPED TOGETHER IN 1/2 A CHAPTER.

BUT PAUL REALLY TAKES HIS TIME CONFRONTING THIS SIN, THE SAME ONE JESUS CONFRONTED THE MOST

Matt 23:1-15

23 Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, **2** saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. **3** 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. **4** 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. **5** But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. **6** They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, **7** greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' **8** But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ,* and you are all brethren. **9** Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. **10** And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. **11** But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. **12** And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. **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. **14** Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!

For you devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation.* 15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

WE SEE JESUS CONFRONT NO SIN MORE THAN THE SIN OF HYPOCRACY!

**AS PAUL IS DOING IN OUR TEXT TODAY....
SO BACK TO ROMANS AS PAUL CONINUES HIS ADDRESS TO THE RELIGIOUS MAN.**

PAUL WILL NOW CONFRONT ONE OF THE JEWS MOST PRIZED RITUAL...

CIRCUMCISION OF NO AVAIL

25 FOR CIRCUMCISION IS INDEED PROFITABLE IF YOU KEEP THE LAW; BUT IF YOU ARE A BREAKER OF THE LAW, YOUR CIRCUMCISION HAS BECOME UNCIRCUMCISION. 26 THEREFORE, IF AN UNCIRCUMCISED MAN KEEPS THE RIGHTEOUS REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW, WILL NOT HIS UNCIRCUMCISION BE COUNTED AS CIRCUMCISION? 27 AND WILL NOT THE PHYSICALLY UNCIRCUMCISED, IF HE FULFILLS THE LAW, JUDGE YOU WHO, *EVEN WITH YOUR WRITTEN CODE AND CIRCUMCISION, ARE A TRANSGRESSOR OF*

THE LAW? 28 FOR HE IS NOT A JEW WHO *IS ONE* OUTWARDLY, NOR *IS* CIRCUMCISION THAT WHICH *IS* OUTWARD IN THE FLESH; 29 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.

IT IS LIKE BAPTISM IN CHRISTIANITY. IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A HEART ISSUE, AN OUTWARD SIGN OF WHAT GOD HAS DONE ON OUR HEARTS AND MINDS.

THE CIRCUMCISION REPRESENTED A CUTTING AWAY OF THE FLESH THE OLD PERSON, BUT IF THEY HAD THIS DONE, AND STILL LIVED LIKE THE OLD PERSON, IT WAS DONE FOR NOTHING.

THE JEWS TOOK PRIDE IN THIS; THEY HELD THEMSELVES AT A HIGHER LEVEL THAN ANY OTHER PEOPLE.

WHEN IN REALITY THEY WERE CHOSEN TO BE A LIGHT TO THE WORLD, TO BRING PEOPLE TO THE ONE TRUE GOD.

THE ACT OF CIRCUMCISION WAS TO BE A HEART ISSUE, AND A REMINDER THAT THEY LIVED FOR GOD AND NOT THEIR OWN FLESH.

LIKE BAPTISM, WHEN WE GO UNDER THE WATER, IT IS LIKE US BEING BURIED, IN LIKENESS TO JESUS.

WHEN WE COME UP AGAIN, WE ARE LEAVING THAT OLD PERSON BEHIND, AND WE ARE STATING WE ARE A NEW CREATION.

BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE IS BAPTIZED, AND THEY STILL LIVE FOR THEMSELVES.

THEY STILL LIVE AFTER THE FLESH? WELL THEN IT IS LIKE THEY WERE NEVER BAPTIZED.

AND THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN BAPTIZED, BUT THEIR HEART IS CHANGED, AND THEY LIVE FOR GOD, WELL IT SEEMS THEY ARE BETTER OFF, AND THEY LIVE AS THOUGH THEY WERE BAPTIZED.

IT IS A HEART ISSUE, AND IF WE LIKE THE JEWS ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE CONSUMED OF WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OUR KING.

AND WE RELY ON OUR CEREMONIES AND RITUALS OR WORKS, AND PRIDE BECOMES AN ISSUE, THEN WE ARE IN TROUBLE.

WE NEED TO VIEW PEOPLE WITH COMPASSION, NOT JUDGMENT.

LET GOD BE THEIR JUDGE, HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO IS ABLE TO DO SO RIGHTEOUSLY.

WE CAN ONLY SIMPLY GIVE GOD'S WORD AND TRUTHS, AND LET THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICT AND BRING PEOPLE TO HIMSELF.

WE ARE ALSO NOT TO SUPPRESS THE TRUTH, WE CAN PRESENT IT, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE PARTNERED TOGETHER WITH LOVE.

GOD'S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT LOOKS RIGHT TO THE HEART OF PEOPLE, ONLY HE CAN ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT JUDGE THE INTENT OF THE HEART.

WE NEED TO LOOK AT OURSELVES, AND APPROACH PEOPLE WITH THE SAME LOVE AND MERCY WE HAVE BEEN SHOWN.

REMEMBERING THE SCARS OF THAT PLANK THAT WAS REMOVED, WE CANNOT PLACE OURSELVES ON A PEDAL STOOL, ABOVE EVERYONE ELSE.

OUR LIVES NEED TO BE FILLED WITH MORE THAN JUST THE HEAD KNOWLEDGE.

IT NEEDS TO PERMEATE INTO THE WAY WE LIVE OUR LIVES, WE ARE AN EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD.

NUM 6:24-26

24 "THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU;
 25 THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE SHINE UPON YOU,
 AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU; 26 THE LORD LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE UPON YOU, AND GIVE YOU PEACE."

WE ARE REPRESENTING OUR KING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

WHOSE FACE ARE YOU SHINING?

So in conclusion

Luke 18:9-14

9 Also He(Jesus) spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 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. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 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!' 14 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."

We need to see ourselves for who we are, in need, poor, and humble.

Only you know your heart, and where you stand in this parable, get right this morning, if you have pride in your heart towards the lost, then you are worse off than them.

Now, if you are done trying to earn God's favor, done trying to be a good person.

You realize you need Him, don't wait another minute to come to Christ; there is no other name that can save you, no other path.

Let Him free you of that alcohol addiction this morning, let Him free you of that drug addiction this morning,

let Him free you from that homosexual lifestyle, from the pornography, from the adultery, from the lust in your heart,

let Him free you and break those chains that have you in bondage

You say Jesus hung out with the sinners and tax collectors. And people justify their lifestyles with that statement.

And you are right. Jesus did eat with sinners and tax collectors.

But He didn't stay there, when He left, the people were then left with a choice, to leave what they know and follow Him, or stay drinking and sinning, or some even got angry and plotted to kill Him. Where are you?

Do you want to get up and go with Jesus, leave all that junk behind, or do you want to stay in that bondage?

If you want to leave it all behind for Jesus, with Jesus, make that decision today, don't wait.

Jesus says come to me

Matt 11:28-30

28 Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

Give Christ your burdens today, be changed by the washing of His blood.

As we end with this song, come up for prayer, the pastors are here, and the elder's will be here, don't stay in bondage come up and be freed.

If you are finding you have that pride in your heart towards the lost, repent this morning, and be ready to be used for Christ's Kingdom.

Remember the plank that was removed out of your life, and expect the same Amazing Grace to change those around you.

May His face shine upon us as we leave here this morning?