

September 29/30, 2012

The Gospel Story: No Favoritism

A Study of Romans

Romans 2:1-29

Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Does Romans 1 describe our community? Why or why not? Does everyone in our community live that way?
2. Are there people you know who would agree with the condemnation of the behaviors in Romans 1 but would never imagine themselves as being condemned by God? Who are those people? Why would they think that way?
3. Do you believe religion is a barrier to God? Why or why not? How hard is it to reach good religious people with the truth of the Gospel? Why is this?

Bible Study

1. Review Romans 1:18-32. What is Paul's basic argument?
2. Read Romans 2:1-11. What does Paul mean when he says, "you judge another you condemn yourself" (2:1)? Can you judge another without some moral code?
3. The riches of God are described as God's kindness, tolerance and patience. What should those attributes lead to according to 2:4? What tends to happen instead?
4. What will be the basis for judgment? How does this level the playing field for all people?

5. Read Romans 2:12-16. How does this paragraph help us understand how people in various parts of the world can be held accountable before God for their deeds? According to Romans 1, 2 can anyone really stand before God one day and plead ignorance?
6. Read Romans 2:17-24. What is Paul's point? How might he make a similar point to "Christians" (broadly defined) in America? In what ways has religion turned "the Gentiles" away from God in our day?
7. Read Romans 2:25-29. What does Paul say to the religious Jews that would have "shocked" them? How might a similar scene play out in today's modern culture? Who might be the "circumcised" and who might be the "gentiles" in today's culture?
8. Summarize Paul's point in Romans 1:18-2:29. Why does bad news have to precede the Good News?

Application

1. Where do you think most people in our community would find themselves, in Romans 1 or in Romans 2? Why? What about you?
2. Which do you think are harder to reach with the Gospel Story, Romans 1 people or Romans 2 people? Why?
3. Is Paul's point that we are all sinners so we shouldn't judge one another or we are all sinners so we are all really in trouble? Why does this distinction matter?