

# The Missing Gospel

A FULLER PICTURE OF GOD  
FOR THE **Romans**

# 2

## DIG DEEPER:

❓ Why do you think self-righteous people have an intrinsic blindness to their own faults?

## Yes, No & Maybe

1. I am seen as a "goody-two-shoes" to most of my acquaintances.

2. Most people at church think their attendance will make up for their disobedience.

3. Christians are given grace because, unlike non-Christians, God can pardon their bad behavior.

4. God dispenses punishments to help sinners connect with Him.

5. God judges us according to our work.

**READ: Romans 2:1-11 (NLT)**

*You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things. 2 And we know that **God, in his justice, will punish** anyone who does such things. 3 Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you do the same things? 4 Don't you see **how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is** with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that **his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?***

*5 But because **you are stubborn** and refuse to turn from your sin, you are **storing up terrible punishment for yourself**. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. 6 He will judge everyone according to what they have done. 7 He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. 8 But **he will pour out his anger and wrath** on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness. 9 There will be trouble and calamity for everyone who keeps on doing what is evil—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. 10 But there will be glory and honor and peace from God for all who do good—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. 11 For **God does not show favoritism**.*

❓ What are some common things that church-going people do in order to appear like they are in right relationship with God?

Δ (Vs. 2) **God, in his justice, will punish...** - A common tradition in Christ's day claimed that Abraham himself sat at the gate of Hell to keep all Jews out, regardless of their deeds. Trypho the Jew is alleged to have said, "They who are the seed of Abraham according to the flesh shall in any case, even if they be sinners and unbelieving and disobedient towards God, share in the eternal Kingdom." The apocryphal *Wisdom of Solomon*, written in the first century, bears this and many similar statements: "So while chastening us thou scourgest our enemies ten thousand times more...." (12:22).

√ (Vs. 11) **God does not show favoritism** - "Favoritism" is *prosōpolēpsia* (προσωποληψια). The Greek word is made up of the word for "face" and the verb "receive" the compound word meaning, "to receive face." Literally



## DIG DEEPER: CONTINUED...

translated, the verse reads, "For there is not receiving of face in the presence of God." That is, God does not judge by looks.

❗ How is this picture of "God's justice" still good news?

⚠ (Vs. 4) **Does this mean nothing to you?** - In Greek: *kataphroneō* (καταφρονεω), a compound word where *phroneō* (φρονεω) means "to have understanding, be wise, to feel, to think, to direct one's mind to a thing," and *kata* (κατα), meaning "down," thus, "to think a thing down," in present-day language, "to look down one's nose at 'how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is.'"

⚠ (Vs. 5) **Because you are stubborn...storing up terrible punishment for yourself** - "Stubborn/Hardness" is *sklērotēs* (σκληροτης) "obstinacy, stubbornness, hardness." This is the origin of our modern word "sclerosis." "Storing up/Treasurest" is *thēsauroizō* (θησαυριζω), "to gather and lay up, to heap up, store up" like treasure.

❗ Why do you think these concepts are vital to understand in relation to what we espouse as God's punishment for people's sins?

⚠ (Vss. 5,8-10) **A day of anger is coming...He will pour out his anger and wrath...** - The Greek text does not mention the source of wrath and anger (8), suffering and pain (9), and glory, honor, and peace (10). In the Greek text the series of nouns appears without verbs to relate them to particular agents. Most English translations provide an impersonal verb (for example "... will come" or "there will be ...").

❗ Why do you think so many people attribute punishment to God, instead of the consequences of their own thoughts and actions?

❗ How does it display God's love that there will be a very definite "day of anger" at some time?

Notes:

## My Prayers This week:

1. What are some of my faults that I've been turning a blind eye to?
2. How am I savoring how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is?
3. What new aspect of God's character do I understand better this week?

