


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Q1. What is the difference [albeit subtle] between the audience in Paul’s greetings to the Romans (↓) compared to the Corinthians (↓)?

Note for Romans 1:7

.....
Note for 1 Corinthians 1:2

.....
Conclusion?
.....

Romans 1:7 [NIV-1984]

To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:2 [NIV-1984]

To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ — their Lord and ours:

¹You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

Q2. In verse 1, what is Paul warning against?

.....

Q3. Since we who believe are in the world (not of the world), are we Believers to tolerate the sin of non-believers?

Define “Tolerate”:

.....
Conclusion?
.....
.....

Lesson 3: Romans 2:1-16

Q4. (1) If a Christian confronts a woman who has had an abortion, is that confrontation “judgmental”? (2) How does the Christian demonstrate “Love your neighbor (who had an abortion) as yourself”?

(1) Judgmental?


(2) Demonstrate?

Q5. (1) If a Christian confronts a person who is gay, is that confrontation “judgmental”? (2) How does the Christian demonstrate “Love your neighbor (who is gay) as yourself”?

(1) Judgmental?

(2) Demonstrate?

Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

2 Corinthians 6:14 [NIV-1984]

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? . . .

Q6. If we are “not [to] be yoked together with unbelievers”, does that imply “judgment” of behavior?

Lesson 3: Romans 2:1-16

Q7. Are Believers to tolerate sin within the fellowship of Believers (within the church)?

1 Corinthians 5:1-3, 11-13^a [NIV-1984] [Paul admonished the Corinthian church in his 1st letter to the Corinthians:]

¹ It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that does not occur even among pagans: A man has his father's wife. ² And you are proud! Shouldn't you rather have been filled with grief and have put out of your fellowship the man who did this [judgment]? ³ Even though I am not physically present, I am with you in spirit. And I have already passed judgment on the one who did this, just as if I were present. . .

¹¹ But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard, or a swindler. With such a man do not even eat.

¹² What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside?
^{13^a} God will judge those outside.

Q8. Why was it okay for Paul to pass judgment on a Believer's sin? Was Paul teaching the Corinthians to "judge", too? If yes, under what circumstances?

Matthew 7:1-5, 15-16^a [NIV-1984] [In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught,]

¹ "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. ² For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. ³ "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? ⁴ How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. . .

¹⁵ "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. ^{16^a} By their fruit you will recognize them.

Matthew 18:15-17 [NIV-1984] [Jesus continues to teach about addressing sin within the church body:]

¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.

¹⁶ But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'

¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Lesson 3: Romans 2:1-16


Q9. It seems that "Watch out for false prophets" suggests "judgment". Compare Matthew 7:1 (↑) to Matthew 7:15 (↑); is Jesus' teaching contradictory?


Notes for Matthew 7:1


Notes for Matthew 7:15

Conclusion?

Q10. How does the dictionary define "judgment"?

-  **Judgment** (also judge-ment) [© 2003-2024 Farlex, Inc; <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/judgment>]
- a. The act or process of judging; the formation of an opinion after consideration or deliberation.
 - b. An opinion or estimate formed after consideration or deliberation, especially a formal or authoritative decision: awaited the judgment of the umpire.
 - a. The mental ability to perceive and distinguish relationships; discernment: Fatigue may affect a pilot's judgment of distances.
 - b. The capacity to form an opinion by distinguishing and evaluating: His judgment of fine music is impeccable.
 - c. The capacity to assess situations or circumstances and draw sound conclusions; good sense: She showed good judgment in saving her money.
 - Law
 - a. A determination of a court of law; a judicial decision.
 - b. A court decision establishing that an obligation [consequence] is owed, such as a debt.
 - A misfortune believed to be sent by God as punishment [consequence] for sin.

-  **Discernment** (dī-sûrn'mənt) [© 2003-2024 Farlex, Inc; <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/discernment>]
- The act or process of exhibiting keen insight and good judgment.
 - Keeness of insight and judgment.

-  Judgment usually results in a verdict – it includes a consequence. Whereas discernment usually means an insight, which is the first part of 'judgment;' the result of discernment is no consequence.

Within our church-body, the church is to judge a fellow-member for unrepentant, egregious sin and the consequence of that judgment/verdict can be excommunication (banishment). See 1 Corinthians 5:12-13^a (↑).

Outside of our Church-body – in the world – we who believe are to discern behaviors and avoid the temptations that surround us; our example to avoid participating in a tempting behavior is our discernment in-action; we are not condemning the non-believer's behavior; we are simply refusing to participate in that sinful behavior due to our faith.

Now, the non-believer may make a judgment and the consequence of his/her judgment is to shun the Believer; the shunning may sting the Believer emotionally but that is okay – the Believer has shown the Light of Christ Jesus into the world and it is the world who rejects His saving grace. That said, over time perhaps the non-believer's conscience will be pierced by the Believer's example and the non-believer will eventually seek the Redeemer Christ Jesus.

Our example must demonstrate Christ Jesus to the world and be merciful, compassionate, and loving in our words; we must avoid words, facial expressions, and actions that connote condemnation. As much as the non-believer has a legal right to do a sin, you as the Believer have that same right to avoid the sin.

Lesson 3: Romans 2:1-16

Ephesians 5:1-2 [(NIV-1984)]

¹ Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:3-5 [(NIV-1984)]

[The Apostle Paul continues to write about the unrepentant non-believer:]


³ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵ For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure, or greedy person – such a man is an idolater – has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Day 3

² Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. ³ So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?

Q11. We, too, know God's Truth through the Bible. Does Paul's warning apply to us, today?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

 Referring to verse 3 – please see the Words of our savior recorded in Matthew 7:1-5, 15-16^a (↑). Hypocrisy is the worst trait a “Christian” can exhibit and it seems – by far – the easiest to demonstrate; we can do it without really thinking about it. We must always be on-guard against the pollutants of the world.

⁴ Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

Q12. Why does Paul focus on “repentance”?

Lesson 3: Romans 2:1-16

Q13. How does “God’s kindness lead... you to repentance”?

Q14. Verse 4 states that God is kind, tolerant, and patient. Is God tolerant of sin?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

Psalm 5:4-6 [NIV-1984]

⁴ You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with you the wicked cannot dwell. ⁵ The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong. ⁶ You destroy those who tell lies; bloodthirsty and deceitful men the Lord abhors.

Day 4

⁵ But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

Q15. In our modern, progressive times, are we, who believe, really “stubborn” and “unrepentant”?

Q16. “Everyone knows that God is love”. What does “the day of God’s wrath” mean to us, today?

Revelation 20:11-15 [NIV-1984] [The Great White Throne Judgment – the Final Judgment]

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.

¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another

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book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

¹⁴Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

6 God "will give to each person according to what he has done."

Q17. Is that how we get to Heaven, by doing good works?

Q18. How are we saved?

Romans 10:17 [(NIV-1984)]


Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Romans 10:8-10 [NIV-1984]

⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Ephesians 1:13-14 [(NIV-1984)]

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.

 We are redeemed by grace – it is a gift – a gift of salvation from our Lord Christ Jesus. We believe; we confess; we are saved; we are marked by the Holy Spirit as a guarantee – there is no other more absolute promise! Then, as a Believer we demonstrate our belief through actions, deeds. For James (Jesus' half-brother) observed in his letter in James 2:26^b: "so faith without deeds is dead".

It seems that once we believe, we establish a Heavenly 'savings account' and our good words and deeds are deposited and will be revealed during the Great White Throne Judgement foretold in Revelation 20:11-15 (↑).

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Matthew 6:20-21 [NIV-1984]

²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 12:36-37 [NIV-1984]

³⁶ But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. ³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."


Luke 12:33 [The Message (MSG); a paraphrase]

³³⁻³⁴ "Be generous. Give to the poor. Get yourselves a bank that can't go bankrupt, a bank in heaven far from bank-robbers, safe from embezzlers, a bank you can bank on. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.

Hebrews 10:32-39

³² Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering. ³³ Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. ³⁴ You sympathized with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions.

³⁵ So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. ³⁶ You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. ³⁷ For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay. ³⁸ But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him." ³⁹ But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.

 Jesus taught the following parable in Matthew 25:14-30. This parable does apply to this discussion on our 'Heavenly savings account'. We are to use our God-given talents to serve our neighbors, to encourage our brothers-and-sisters-in-Christ, to fulfill the Great Commission – to the best of our abilities. For those of us who cannot preach like Billy Graham, God has given us other talents and abilities; our Christ-like examples can speak more powerfully than any sermon to those with whom we come in contact; our silent presence can give the mourner our ear to hear in compassion and empathy; a well-placed word of encouragement can lift a person up out of the doldrums of this world. We merely have to take the first courageous step and the Holy Spirit will empower us.]

Matthew 25:14-30 [NIV-1984]

¹⁴ "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them.

¹⁵ To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.

¹⁶ The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'

²¹ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²² "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'

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²³ "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

²⁴ "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

²⁶ "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So, you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

²⁸ " 'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, he will give eternal life.

Q19. How might verse 7 (↑) relate to verse 4 (↓)?

Notes on verse 4:

Notes on verse 7:

Conclusion?

Romans 2:4 [NIV-1984]

Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

Lesson 3: Romans 2:1-16

⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

Q20. Does verse 8 (↑) relate to verse 5 (↓)?

Notes on verse 5:

Notes on verse 8:

Conclusion?

Romans 2:5 [NIV-1984]


But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

Q21. In verse 8, what is the “truth” to which Paul refers?

⁹ There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; ¹⁰ but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Q22. Why does Paul write “first for the Jew, then for the Gentile”? [Helps: Was Jesus a Jew? To what people-group did Jesus predominantly preach/teach/minister?]

Q23. It seems that many people who do evil are rewarded in this world. Where is their “trouble and distress”? (Hint: In this world who is their master? Who is the ultimate Judge?)

 For those of us who relish ‘fair-play’, we are discouraged by this world’s wealthy and powerful who escape the justice of the legal system and continue to amass evermore power and wealth upon the backs of the many who serve them and work for them. Our world makes much of justice-for-some and under-the-table agreements. Where is the fair-play and God’s justice?!?!

While we do not know, nor can we comprehend the depth and breadth of God’s great wisdom, we can take heart in God’s agapé love for each one of us. We trust that He wants what is best for you, for me; much like a loving

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parent wants the absolute best for their child. God wants us to trust Him, to love Him. God wants the absolute best for you, for me. Much like a human parent, who may allow a toddler to learn what “hot” is without burning skin, God will allow us to make mistakes, with the hope that we will learn from them.

¹¹For God does not show favoritism.

Q24. Is this really true: “God does not show favoritism”?


Yes? }
No? } Why?

James 2:1, 8-10 [NIV-1984]

¹ My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. . .

⁸ If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹ But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Day 6


 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

¹²All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.

Q25. What is the “law”?

Q26. Will everyone “be judged by the law”?

Yes? }
No? } Why?

 “People are condemned not for what they don't know, but for what they do with what they know. Those who know God's written Word and His law will be judged by them. Those who have never seen a Bible still know right from wrong, and they will be judged because they did not keep even those standards that their own consciences dictated. Our modern-day sense of fair play and the rights of the individual often balks at God's judgment. But keep in mind that people violate the very standards they create for themselves.

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“If you traveled around the world, you would find evidence in every society and culture of God’s moral law. For example, all cultures prohibit murder, and yet in all societies that law has been broken. We belong to a stubborn race. We know what’s right, but we insist on doing what’s wrong...” [©1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, The Life Application® Bible, published by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL 60189. All rights reserved. Page 2030]

- ✎ In reference to the chart below (↓): “Since the Bible refers to the Law many times, it is important to know that the “Law” actually has different meanings. Sometimes it refers to the Mosaic Law and at times to the entire Old Testament. At other times, it has a variety of other meanings.” [Copyright © Like The Master Ministries. All Rights Reserved. <https://www.neverthirsty.org/bible-qa/qa-archives/question/what-is-law-in-bible/>]

TERM	DEFINITION	PASSAGE
The Law	Entire Bible	John 15:25; Ps. 69:4
Mosaic Law	Exodus-Numbers	John 1:17
Law of Faith	Salvation by Faith	Romans 3:27
Law of the mind	Desire to obey God	Romans 7:23-24
Law of sin	Sin’s rules	Romans 7:23-24
Law of the spirit of life	The gospel	Romans 8:2
Law of liberty	All of Scripture	James 1:25

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¹³ For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.

Q27. If a Christian hears (or reads) Scripture, will the Christian be “righteous in God’s sight”? Or must the Christian put what he or she reads into action (obedience)?


- ✎ “The Jews thought themselves a holy people, entitled to their privileges by right, while they were unthankful, rebellious, and unrighteous. But all who act thus, of every nation, age, and description, must be reminded that the judgment of God will be according to their real character. The case is so plain, that we may appeal to the sinner's own thoughts. In every [willful] sin, there is contempt of the goodness of God. And though the branches of man's disobedience are very various, all spring from the same root. But in true repentance, there must be hatred of former sinfulness, from a change wrought in the state of the mind, which disposes it to choose the good and to refuse the evil. It shows also a sense of inward wretchedness. Such is the great change wrought in repentance, it is conversion, and is needed by every human being.” [©1706, *Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible* by Matthew Henry; <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/romans/2-13.htm>]

James 2:26 [NIV-1984]

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

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¹⁴ (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, ¹⁵ since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)

 In Lesson 2, pages 3 & 4, as part of our examination of Romans 1:20, we looked at Romans 2:14-16.

¹⁶ This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

Q28. When will God “judge men's secrets”?

Revelation 20:11-15 [NIV-1984] [The Great White Throne Judgment]

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

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