

Musing #44 — Romans 2:1-5

Romans is the “must” book of the Bible. It’s a key to God’s dealing with humanity. God has given the human race two federal heads – Adam and Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:45 The Scriptures tell us, “The first man, Adam, became a living person.” But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit.

God treats all men as being one or the other. By natural birth all of mankind enters the world “in Adam.” All are descended from him, derive their life from him, are associated with him, and have their standing before God in him. There is nothing a human can do to undo their identification with Adam.

Romans 3:10 “There is none righteous, no, not one.”

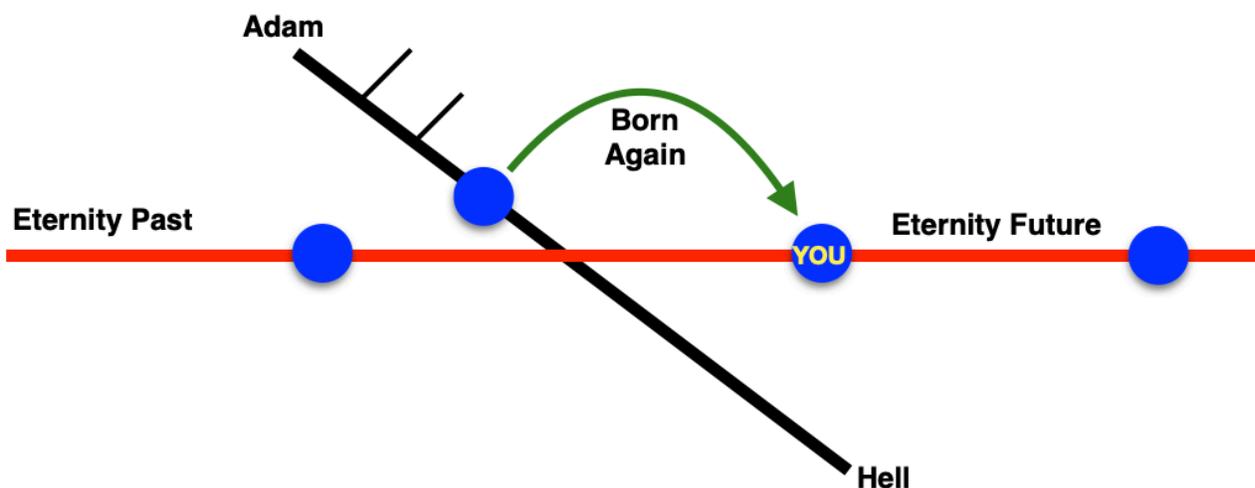
The reason every person needs to be redeemed is simply because we have been born into a race whose parents chose independence over God. God has consequently condemned the Adamic race.

God’s remedy was to become a man providing a new federal (representative) head as part of a new race of humanity. But first, as a human, He had to suffer death, taking our place in that death, and receiving what we deserved.

Only our Father in heaven would think of perfect justice on a Cross, transferring our guilt to His own son, in order to redeem those who are His through faith.

Only by a second birth — a spiritual birth, can we come to be “in Christ” under a new spiritual and federal head.

When we become believers, God now identifies us completely with the eternal life of Jesus Christ. We are now in Him... fully identified in His eternal past and His eternal future. That is why Paul taught us... **Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.



Rom 8:1 There is now no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus.

With that in mind... God sees mankind as one of three persons....

- **The natural man** — lost, blind in Adam, spiritually dead, works focused on self—hay, wood & stubble - to be burned
- **The carnal man** — Professing, but living in sin, sowing for self, works are hay, wood, and stubble to be burned on judgement day
- **The spiritual man** — Redeemed, in Christ, spiritually alive, works carry eternal value—gold, silver, precious stones—Jesus preparing our eternal home

There will be two Judgement Seats

- The Judgement Seat of Christ—for believers
- The White Throne Judgement—for unbelievers

1. The Judgment seat of Christ is only for those who are born again and believe in their heart that Jesus Christ is their Savior. This will occur immediately following the rapture of the church.

Rom 14:10: So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

2 Cor 5:10: For we [believers will be called to account and] must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be repaid for what has been done in the body, whether good or bad [that is, each will be held responsible for his actions, purposes, goals, motives—the use or misuse of his time, opportunities and abilities].

At the judgment seat of Christ, saints will receive crowns or rewards according to their works on earth. He remembers our sins no more! But He knows our heart, our motives, our opportunities, our purpose, our gifting, and our calling.

Crowns — Rewards for believers

1. Incorruptible Crown for those who resist the world, the flesh, and the devil
2. Crown of Rejoicing for those who win others to Christ
3. Crown of Glory for leaders who minister to others in the body
4. Crown of Righteousness for believers who watch for His imminent return
5. Crown of Life for those who successfully endure temptations & testings

2. The White Throne Judgement is the judgement for unbelievers —those whose names are not written in the Lord's *Book of Life*.

Matthew 7:22-23 On the Judgment Day, many people will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name and expel demons in your name and do lots of miracles in your name?' 23 Then I'll tell them, 'I've never known you. Get away from me, you people who do wrong.'

Rev 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. 12 I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds. 14 Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. 15 And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

In Romans Chapter 1 — Paul consistently talked about “they” & “them” —

***They** are without excuse*

***They** knew of God but did not honor him*

***They** exchanged the truth of God for a lie*

*And... God gave **them** over to a depraved mind*

As Paul continues in Chapter 2 — he does a 90 degree turn...

from external third person — they, they, they

to internal second person — you, you, you

He's still talking to unbelievers—— but his focus is on **the religious crowd**.

Having seen God's indictment of the ungodly...and the judgement to come for them,

Paul turns to those who think of themselves as respectable and who "think" they're better than most; that God is okay with them because they're not really too bad.

For 35 years.... I believed the church had three moral categories...

Bad — Hitler, Stalin, Capone, Charles Manson, etc

Good — Billy Graham, Mother Teresa, Mom, Dad, Stan Musial

Okay — The masses, including me

And who determined who goes where? — Me, of course.

I hadn't killed anyone. I wasn't a dope addict or a drunk

I had never been in prison... Case closed! I'm okay, you're okay!

Well — here's the problem. I wasn't the appointed judge. Only God is the judge!!!

• **God judges unbelievers by 7 principles**

Romans 2:1-2 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.

God will judge unbelievers by who they are... not by what they know or achieve.

• **Judgement #1 — Truth.** Everything will come down to the real truth which we covered in the first session.

2 Cor 10:12 For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. For they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

I believed I'd go to heaven because I wasn't that bad.

Unbelievers and some Christians cry "hypocrite" by always comparing themselves to very evil people... hoodlums, harlots, thieves, and the worst criminals.

That isn't how God does it. Remember, He is talking to those I refer to as "pretend Christians"—those who profess to be believers, but live as unbelievers.

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?

From the MSG 3-4 You didn't think, did you, that just by pointing your finger at others you would distract God from seeing all your misdoings and from coming down on you hard? Or did you think that because he's such a nice God, he'd let you off the hook? Better think this one through from the beginning. God is kind, but he's not soft.

• **Judgement #2 — Accumulation of Guilt**

Paul is exposing the false security of self-love. Many Jews still believe that only the gentiles will be judged.

5 But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. Make no mistake: In the end you get what's coming to you—*Real Life* for those who work on God's side, but to those who insist on getting their own way and take the path of least resistance, *Fire!*

Self-righteousness condemns... Look at Orthodox Jewish people who reject the true Messiah. In Paul's day they were the Pharisees. We have many in our churches who would fall into the same category. Religion instead of a relationship.

Romans 11:7-11 When Israel tried to be right with God on her own, pursuing her own self-interest, she didn't succeed. The chosen ones of God were those who let God pursue his interest in them, and as a result received his stamp of legitimacy. The "self-interest Israel" became thick-skinned toward God. Moses and Isaiah both commented on this: Fed up with their quarrelsome, self-centered ways, God blurred their eyes and dulled their ears, Shut them in on themselves in a hall of mirrors, and they're there to this day. David was upset about the same thing: I hope they get sick eating self-serving meals, break a leg walking their self-serving ways. I hope they go blind staring in their mirrors, get ulcers from playing god. The next question is, "Are they down for the count? Are they out of this for good?" And the answer is a clear-cut No. Ironically when they walked out, they left the door open and the outsiders walked in. But the next thing you know, the Jews were starting to wonder if perhaps they had walked out on a good thing.

In our next session, we'll continue with the seven principles by which God judges the lives of unbelievers to include the challenge from James, "faith without works is dead." We'll also look more closely at how God will also judge His children based on our "works." Not for our salvation, but the judgement for our saintly rewards. It is interesting to note that God's judgement is largely based on "merit." (See 1 Corinthians 9:24-25, 2 Timothy 4:8, James 1:12)