

Romans 08 – Guilty Beyond Excuse

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Romans 2:1-5

Prologue: Rejection of Truth

- Man tests God truth:
Rejects it for lies (Dt 5)
- Lies foundation of one's
worldview (Lk 6:37-38)
- Man's morality based on
lies endorsed by worldview
(Ex 32:1-34; Ps 73:21-24)

Sin changed man from being in God's image
To being on level as cattle; no understanding
Man has rejected knowledge of God to worship creation



Prologue: Unrighteousness Only

- Filled (πληρώω) with *worthless wisdom*, worldview {δοκιμάζω} composed of these four elements (Lk 6:38)
 - Unrighteousness (ἀδικία) – Thoughts, Words and Deeds
 - Wickedness (πονηρία) – Dead works: Form of godliness (2Ti 3:4-5; He 9:14)
 - Covetousness (πλεονεξία) – Self-driven to possess (1Jo 2:15-17)
 - Malice (κακία) – Goal of sin: Condemnation of God

Prologue: Worldview-Testing Truth



Prologue: Sinners Know Truth

- Creation communicates God's truth which the Lost reject leaving them without excuse
 - They know that they have transgressed God's justice and are deserving of death (Paul will prove this later)
 - Rather than repent, sinners condemn themselves by **approving** those who have similar worldviews and sins (Birds of a feather flock together)

Everyone Without Excuse

- Everyone exposed to God's truth; thus, each person stands without excuse of ignorance
 - Creation: Declares God's existence (Outer) (Ps 19:1-6)
 - Conscience: Declares God's morality (Inner) (Ex 20:1-17)
- Inner and Outer witness clear to everyone
 - People reject the truth of God for the lie of Satan
 - People rely on *appeal to majority*: Self-justification

To Be as God is To Judge

- Original test of Woman and Man: Possess knowledge to be as God (Ge 3:4-7; He 5:14)
- Carries the implication of judgment to sinners awaiting judgment: God measures all things by His own nature
- All people believe themselves capable of judging others, and God, based on themselves as standards of right; i.e., their sinful worldview (Hero of own story)

Differences of Judgment

Judgment

- Purview of God alone
- Knows thoughts and intents of the heart (He 4:12)
- Judges lost from saved, the domain of God; sinner judges everyone but self, guilty inevitable verdict

Discernment

- Purview of all beings
- Bible basis to know outer forms of good or evil
- Each being must embrace the good and shun the evil: No condemnation of beings

All People Guilty of Sin

- As discussed, man's worldview based only on sin as man's sin nature rejected everything of God
- Worldview composed of:
 - Unrighteousness: Thoughts, Words, Deeds
 - Dead works: Godly forms but denying true godliness
 - Covetousness: Unbridled desires for self-satisfaction (Life)
 - Forgone Conclusion: God is guilty of evil; unfit to judge

Man Unfit to Judge

- God determines man is unfit to judge as man sees only the outside (1Sa 16:7)
 - Man cannot see thoughts and intents of even own heart
 - If we say we have no sin, we lie (1Jo 1:8)
 - All people live sinfully evidenced by conformity to the previous exemplary list (Ro 3:23)
 - Man seeks to *appear* outwardly righteous but inwardly is as sinful as the ones in judgment (Ro 23:28)

Inner Morality Guides Judgment

- Man adheres to the moral code written on his nature by God; i.e., there is only one morality (Ex 20:1-17)
 - Thus, if a just verdict condemns the accused, it also condemns the accessor who is also guilty of sin (Ro 2:9)
 - Since both moral code and verdict are righteous, the guilt of both are also right
 - Thus, the judge is incapable of judging since he also is guilty before God

Why Judge Others?

- We are driven to judge others *as more guilty than ourselves* in hopes of escaping God's punishment for sin
 - Breaking any jot of the law makes one guilty of breaking all the law; no amount of good erases the infraction
 - Man's system of works teaches the lie that guilt only applies to those who are *more* guilty than one's self
 - In essence, sinners are little accusers to find others guilty to prove: 1) they are less sinful 2) others more sinful

*In our role of little satans we seek to balance the scales of justice
Man's justice: good outweighs the bad then sin is excused or
If others worse than I then my sin should be excused*

Dead Works in Lieu of Repentance

- Not only does the condemnation (judging) of others fail because it does not clear one's sin
 - It rejects repentance, the admission of one's guilt
 - It rejects the kindness, forbearance and patience of God who graciously gives you opportunity to repent
 - Repentance is appeal to mercy recognizing righteousness of one's guilt; all sinners reject God's mercy

Impenitent {Unrepentant} Heart

- Impenitent, unrepentant, heart becomes harder rejecting each opportunity to seek God's mercy
 - Impenitent literally means "refusing to repent"
 - Repentance (μετανοέω) means to "change direction"; placing an á before the word changes it to the opposite
 - Thus, one refuses to change one's mind, turn from one's sinful thinking and thus one's sinful outer forms

Storing Up Wrath

- One's sin nature filtered out all knowledge of God
- Ungodly knowledge developed one's worldview, sense of justice and judgment
- Upon this all thoughts, words and deeds are built
- Embracing our sin, rejecting God's grace, condemns us

Wrath of God Revealed

- Began with “wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth” (Ro 1:18)
 - Paul explained why God’s wrath is righteous and just
 - We agree with and embrace our sin showing we are willing slaves to the sin
 - God warns of wrath to come; yet, sinners seek to find new ways to reject God rather than repent

What Condemns Sinners?

- The third witness at each sinner’s condemnation will be the testimony of their lives; their works (Ro 20:11-15)
 - Recurring theme will be God’s offered mercy constantly rejected in favor of living life without God
 - God gives them up to believe as they wish to believe without His truth and His salvation
 - Death: God’s absolute truth undeniable, unchangeable

Epilogue: All Equally Guilty

- Everyone equally guilty of sin and worthy of death
 - All who have been conceived have a sin nature
 - Sin nature rejects all knowledge of God’s goodness
 - Only Satan’s lie allowed to form man’s worldview
 - All behavior motivators based on sin, common to all
 - Seeking self-justification each one condemns others as more unrighteous than self, exonerating self {the goal}

God's Cry for Repentance

- God's call for repentance goes throughout the earth and all who *hear* the call, repent, will be saved (Ro 1:16)
- Lost man refuses the call of God and finds reason to condemn God as unrighteous rather than one's self
- This attitude condemns the sinner as rightly guilty of sin and worthy of judgment in the face of God's repeated opportunities of repentance; thus, God gives them up

Not Everyone Condemned

- Our next lesson begins to show that some are not condemned
 - This hint will be the beginning of Paul showing how God saves some despite themselves
 - It begins with generalities and becomes more specific
 - Before laying the foundation of salvation Paul first laid the foundation of sin showing man's utter helplessness

Man Shall Become Worse (Mt 24:36-39)

- The coming of the Son will be as the coming of the Cataclysm in Noah's time: Suddenly
 - God gave up man collectively and brought destruction: Man refused knowledge of God, suppressed the truth
 - Man does the same today, collectively joining together to suppress God's truth while loving their sin
 - The Son's coming will appear suddenly though spoken from long ago; yet, man will reject God one more time