

Study in Romans

Doctrine > Bad News > Eternal Wrath

Romans 2:1-29

God's Eternal Wrath Preserved for the Moralist

Continuing his argument for the just wrath of God against a sinful human race, Paul turns his attention in chapter two to the hypocrisy of the moralist who thinks he is doing well with God when in fact his stubborn, unrepentant heart is storing up eternal wrath from God. Paul has already pointed the finger of accusation against the hedonist in the second half of chapter one, but he swiftly descends on the moralist in chapter two and devotes twice as much ink against the religious person who has been nodding his head vigorously in agreement with Paul through chapter one. It also seems clear that Paul is speaking directly to his former identity as a Jew who thought himself to have an inside track with God even as he persecuted the church.

1. The hypocrisy of the moralist exposed - part 1
 - a. Finger of the moralist: Passing judgement on others in the face of God's kindness (vv. 1-4)
 - b. Heart of the moralist: Stubborn unrepentance in the face of God's eternal wrath (vv. 5-11)
2. Parenthetical note about the nature of God's judgement (vv. 12-16)
3. The hypocrisy of the moralist exposed - part 2
 - a. The resumé of the moralist (vv. 17-20)
 - b. Tough, heart searching questions for the moralist from the prosecution (vv. 21-23)
 - c. Harsh reality: The name of God is blasphemed because of the moralist's hypocrisy (v. 24)
4. The value of circumcision is in the heart, not the flesh (vv. 25-27)
5. Paul's knockout blow to the moralist (vv. 28-29)