Spring Valley Baptist Church

Romans: The Sin Of Self-righteousness

Romans 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. [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? 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.

[12] When the Gentiles sin, they will be destroyed, even though they never had God's written law. And the Jews, who do have God's law, will be judged by that law when they fail to obey it. [13] For merely listening to the law doesn't make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in his sight.

[14] Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. [15] They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. [16] And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.

[17] You who call yourselves Jews are relying on God's law, and you boast about your special relationship with him. [18] You know what he wants; you know what is right because you have been taught his law. [19] You are convinced that you are a guide for the blind and a light for people who are lost in darkness. [20] You think you can instruct the ignorant and teach children the ways of God. For you are certain that God's law gives you complete knowledge and truth. [21] Well then, if you teach others, why don't you teach yourself? You tell others not to steal, but do you steal? [22] You say it is wrong to commit adultery, but do you commit adultery? You condemn idolatry, but do you use items stolen from pagan temples? [23] You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it. [24] No wonder the Scriptures say, "The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of you."

All people fall into three bad categories:	**God has revealed himself through:**
1) The unrighteous	**Creation** 1:20-23
2) The self-righteous	**Conscience** 2:12-16
3) The over-righteous	**Commandments** 2:17-24

•Be careful. It is possible to become very good at identifying sin in everybody except ourselves .

We judge other people by their actions, but we often judge ourselves by our intentions. We tend to demand justice for other people's sins and mercy for our own.

Matthew 7:1-5 – Jesus said, "Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. [2] For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. [3] And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? [4] How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? [5] Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye."

•God's kindness should lead us to repentance.

Romans 2:4 - 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?

Sometimes people misunderstand God's patience. A person can live in sin for years and nothing terrible happens. They eventually begin thinking the God doesn't care if they sin, God isn't serious about sin, or they are getting away with it. God's patience isn't approval. It is mercy. Every opportunity to repent, or hear the gospel, or sense a conviction of the Holy Spirit is God's mercy.

2 Peter 3:9 - The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed but wants everyone to repent.