

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED ON PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN ROME

GOD'S JUDGEMENT IS BASED ON TRUTH

Romans 2:2 "Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth."

There is an implied contrast found in today's devotional verse. The contrast is between the judgements you make and those God makes. The one's you make may be accurate, correct, and truthful. Again, because you are sinful, you are not perfect and neither are your judgements. God, on the other hand is righteous (Romans 1:17) and what He does is based upon His absolute truth. (John 17:17) Therefore, when God judges, His judgements are accurate, correct, and truthful.

On an even deeper level, your making judgements of what others do is, so to speak, "beyond your pay grade." Unless you are an elected or appointed judge in the secular judicial system, it is not your role to judge others. Isaiah writes, "For the LORD is our Judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our King." (Isaiah 33:22) Paul; writes, ". . .you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So, when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?" (Romans 2:1-3)

Note also through the pen of Isaiah that at the same time that God judges He also saves, "It is He who will save us." (Isaiah 33:22) And St. Paul's message in Romans 1:16-17 agrees with that of Isaiah, ". . . the gospel, because it is the power of God . . . brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed. . ."

Thanks be to God for His law that shows us our sins and His gospel that shows us our salvation. These two words of God work hand-in-hand to give us God's truth about our sins and His offer of forgiveness.

Prayer: Through Your Word, O Lord God, Heavenly Father, You give me the truth I need to hear. Open up the ears of my heart to take in Your word and by the power of Your Spirit to believe it for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens, Let Your Word to me come near;
Newborn life and spirit give me, Let each promise still my fear.
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife, Wars against Your Word of life;
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor That I cling to You forever!

Oh, what blessing to be near You And to listen to Your voice;
Let me ever love and hear You, Let Your Word be now my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord, Flee in terror at Your Word;
But to all who feel sin's burden You give words of peace and pardon.

Lord, Your words are waters living When my thirsting spirit pleads.
Lord, Your words are bread lifegiving; On Your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, Your words will be my light Through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing And my cup of joy unfailing!

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let Your words in me take root.
May Your Spirit e'er be near me That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing Your praise, From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given In the endless joy of heaven.
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