

WARM-UP

- Are you the type that plans thoroughly or someone who does things without much planning? Why?
- Share an instance where you extended your patience. What happened?
- When you hear the word “judge,” what comes to your mind? Why?

WORD ³*Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?* ⁴*Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?* **ROMANS 2:3,4**

(Read also **ROMANS 2:1–16.**)

In this passage, Paul was addressing two groups of people—the Gentiles and the Jews. The first was a group of blatant sinners who continued doing evil even when they knew God’s commands. The second was a group of self-righteous Jews who judged others for sinning, yet they themselves were discreetly doing the same. Both groups persisted in sin because they thought that they could get away with it. The truth is no one can *escape the judgment of God*. In spite of this, God, through the gospel, gives the gift of righteousness to those who believe. What does it mean when we say that God is a judge?

1 | God is a thorough judge.

²We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. ³Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? ROMANS 1:2,3

Paul said that there will be a day when all people will be judged according to what they have done. It is not only the blatant sinner who will be judged, but also those that appear righteous. God will judge our actions, words, motives, and thoughts (Matthew 12:36,37). What does Matthew 7:21–23 say about how God will judge people in the last days?

2 | God is a patient judge.

³Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. ROMANS 2:3–5

Paul warned that just because God was not yet punishing them, it didn't mean they could get away with their wrongdoing. Neither did it mean that what they were doing was acceptable. Paul said that God was patient and kind to them in spite of their sin, because He was giving them time to repent. In John 12:47,48, Jesus told His disciples that the reason He came to earth was not to judge the world but to save it. However, He warns that there will definitely be a day

of judgment. How have you experienced the loving-kindness and patience of God?

3 | God is a righteous judge.

⁵But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶He will render to each one according to his works . . . **ROMANS 2:5,6**

Paul said that on judgment day, God's righteous judgment will be revealed. He will judge both those who have received the law and those who do not have an extensive knowledge of the law. He will reward or punish people according to their works. But because we all fall short of God's standards, we are not deserving of His eternal reward. Even though God is a judge, He is also compassionate toward us and knows how much we need to be saved. This is why He sent Jesus Christ, so that those who put their faith in Him may be considered righteous (Romans 4:5). How did Jesus make us righteous? (2 Corinthians 5:21)

APPLICATION

- What sins are you tolerating because no one else knows about them? Knowing that God judges our thoughts and motives, what can you do to overcome these sins?
- How can the way you relate to God change, knowing that He is a judge, but that He also loves you? What is one thing that you can do this week to grow in your relationship with Him?
- Jesus came to earth not to judge the world but to save it. Who can you talk to this week to share this truth about Jesus? Pray for and meet with that person to share about the salvation that Jesus brings.

