

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“The Moral Man Without Excuse”

Romans 2:1-16

Pastor John Miller

Main Point: Living a good, moral life does not exempt us from God's judgment.

Introduction

- How did you or the people around you define what it meant to be a “good person”? Where did that definition come from?

Understanding

1. Moral People Are Condemned According to Their Own Judgment. Read Romans 2:1.

- a. What does Paul mean when he says that the person passing judgment is *“condemning yourself”*?
- b. Is morality the same as righteousness? Explain.
- c. What are the standards by which God will judge people?
- d. Why are those who are trusting in their own morality and religious actions in such danger?
- e. In what ways do people today, including those inside the church, wear masks that hide the reality of their spiritual condition?

2. Moral People Are Condemned According to the Truth. Read Romans 2:2-5.

- a. Why is God the only fair judge?
- b. Why are we not to judge others?
- c. What does it mean to presume upon God's kindness, forbearance and patience?
- d. Explain how God's kindness leads us to repentance.
- e. Paul asks a pointed question in verse 3: *"Do you suppose, O man... that you will escape the judgment of God?"* Why would someone who judges others mistakenly think they are exempt from God's scrutiny?

3. Moral People Are Condemned According to their Works. Read Romans 2:6-10 .

- a. According to verse 6, on what basis will God repay every person?
- b. How does Paul contrast the two distinct paths or attitudes in verses 7 and 8? What motivates the first group versus the second group?
- c. What kind of behavior characterizes those with eternal life?
- d. How would we explain to someone who is trusting in their good deeds that this won't get them into heaven?

4. Moral People Are Condemned Without Respect Of Person. Read Romans 2:11-16.

- a. How does God's impartiality speak good news into the bad news of this world?

- b. How does this truth that God shows no partiality challenge the idea that being raised in a Christian home, attending church, or participating in religious rituals places a person in good standing before God?
- c. Verse 15 talks about the conscience accusing or defending us. How reliable is our conscience, and how can we cultivate a conscience that is genuinely tuned to God's truth?
- d. How does the reality that God sees our private thoughts and motives impact how you live day-to-day?

Application

- After studying these verses, explain in your own words how living a good moral life will not exempt mankind from God's judgment.