

Romans Session 5: Is it the Gospel or Religion?

Romans 2:1-16

In today's passage Paul gives a horrific warning to people who believe in God and live a religious life. People who judge others will also be judged as a sinner. The person who judges, not only does not know God's benevolence and love, but also does not know they are the same sinner. Through the Word, I hope we live a life that does not judge, but a life that blesses and builds others.

1. Christians say they are one body but there are some people who take pleasure in judging and condemning others. What is the problem with people who judge? What is the meaning of "You do the same things"?
2. Most people know that it is not good to judge others. Despite that, what is the reason behind condemning and judging others? How guilty are you at "judging others"?
3. Paul points out judging others is a terrible sin which scorns God's kindness, tolerance and patience (verse 4). Why is judging others such a serious offense to God?
4. Paul emphasizes doing good and living a life that enjoys God's blessing (verses 7-10). How can we harmoniously understand that salvation is earned completely by God's grace and by actively doing good?
5. What do I need in order to bless others and leave judging up to God? As we remember the kindness of God, is there anyone we should forgive? Think of the person who comes to mind when you think of the sin of judgement and share how you can bless and build this person up. Pray to live a week of blessing and building up others.

Emphasized during the Sunday sermon

- Jefferson Bethke "Religion says to 'do,' Jesus says 'done'"
- Religion makes you blind, but Jesus makes you see
- Religion is man searching for God, Christianity is God searching for man"