

The image features a background of ancient Roman stone ruins. A prominent circular stone structure is visible on the left side. A large, semi-transparent cross-shaped graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image. The word "ROMANS" is written in a large, black, serif font across the center of the image.

ROMANS

Week #1: The Gospel is “Good News”: (Romans 1:2-6)

1. It was promised long ago by God.
2. It is about His Son:
 - He is fully human – a descendent of King David.
 - He is fully God – raised from death by the Holy Spirit.
3. His name is Jesus Christ!
4. He is for everyone ... all people, all nations, all of us.

... But why is Jesus good news... and why do I need him?

Last Week: Why is the Gospel “Good News”? (Romans 1:16-32)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ.

- *It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—both Jew and Gentile.*
- ***¹⁷ This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight ...”***

Issue: Why am I not right in God’s sight?

... what has happened?

*All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left
God's paths to follow our own way.*

Isaiah 53:6



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Romans 1-2 describes what “*our own way*” looks like and where it takes us.

Warning: It is not pretty, difficult to digest & politically incorrect.

- it contradicts what *I want to believe* about myself.
- it contradicts what *Canadian culture tells me to believe* about myself.
 - it appears intolerant, non-inclusive & anything but “*progressive*”.
- it is completely true in describing every one of us.



¹⁸ The **wrath** of God is being revealed against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness ...

Key: What does God's wrath look like? What does He do?

- He *abandons* us to our choices.
 - 3x we are told this (verses 24, 26, 28)
- He lets us have what we want ... *all* of it.

God's Response: "I will not stop you ... but I will not go with you."

- "You will now experience ALL you have chosen."

Three Stages of 'going my own way':

Stage 1: My Will. – I suppress what I know. (v.v.18-23)

- a. by denying the obvious.
- b. by rationalizing what is clearly untrue.

Stage 2: My Body. – I do what I want. (v.v.24-27)

- a. by denying the obvious.
- b. by rationalizing what is clearly untrue.

Stage 3: My Mind. – I think as I wish. (v.v.28-32)

- a. by denying the obvious.
- b. by rationalizing what is clearly untrue.

Summary:

1. God *lets me choose* what I do with my life.
2. God has boundaries. He will not join me in my rebellion & folly.
3. When I choose to reject what I know is right, God lets me experience *ALL* the consequences of my choices.
4. God is not to blame for my problems ... I am.

Note: Romans 1-2 is not attempting to show us how we can be saved ... it is telling us why we are lost ...

This Week: The Folly of Self-Righteousness. (Romans 2:1-16)

¹You 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 ... ¹⁶and the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.

What is the deadliest sin? It is the one sin that Jesus attacked more often, more directly, and more severely than any other wrong, yet it is usually the most justified and widely practiced sin in the world. In fact, if we were all truly honest before God, this horrendous sin would be the one that we would confess most often ... it is the sin of self-righteousness. It goes under other names like arrogance, hypocrisy, conceit, and pride, but its many faces express themselves in similar ways.

Swindoll

Danger of self-righteousness: I see morality as only a matter of degree, and justify *my behavior* as not being as “bad” as those around me.

Three problems with this:

- a. I measure others against my righteousness, not God’s.
- b. I become the judge, not God.
- c. I exempt myself from judgement.

The moralist, or so-called good person, agrees with the judgement described in Romans 1. But while the moralist is judging the heathen world, God is saying to them, “You, too, are guilty and condemned by your own words, for you do the same things.”

T. H. Epp

Self-Righteousness: What Jesus Said.

7 “Do not judge other people, unless you also want to be judged. ² For you will be judged in the same way you judge others. And you will be measured in the same way you measure others.

³ “You look at the bit of sawdust in your friend’s eye. But you pay no attention to the piece of wood in your own eye. ⁴ How can you say to your friend, ‘Let me take the bit of sawdust out of your eye’? How can you say this while there is a piece of wood in your own eye? ⁵ You pretender! First take the piece of wood out of your own eye. Then you will be able to see clearly to take the bit of sawdust out of your friend’s eye.

Matthew 7

Self-Righteousness: What Jesus Said.

⁹ To some who had great confidence in their own righteous behavior and scorned everyone else, Jesus told this story: ¹⁰ “Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: ‘I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers ... and I’m certainly not like that tax collector! ¹² I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.’ ¹³ “But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, ‘O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Luke 18

Self-Righteousness: 6 Truths That I Need To Know:

1. Romans 1 applies to everyone ... including me. (v. 1)

¹ 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.

Self-Righteousness: 6 Truths That I Need To Know:

1. Romans 1 applies to everyone ... including me. (v. 1)

2. There *will* be a day of reckoning ... for ALL of us. (v.v. 2, 5-6)

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? ... ⁵ For a day of wrath is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ He will judge everyone according to what they have done.

Self-Righteousness: 6 Truths That I Need To Know:

1. Romans 1 applies to ALL of us. (v. 1)
2. There *will* be a day of reckoning ... for ALL of us. (v.v. 2,5-6)
- 3. When God judges me, He will miss nothing.** (v.v. 3, 16)

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? ... ¹⁶ This is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Jesus Christ, will judge everyone's secret life.

When God judges a person, the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth will be revealed ... we are not judged on the basis of what you and I see but on the basis of what God sees.

T. H. Epp

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3. When God judges me, He will miss nothing. (v.v. 3,16)
4. **When God judges me, He will be impartial.** (v. 11)

*⁷ God will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor & 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 & calamity for everyone who keeps on doing what is evil—for both Jew & Gentile. ¹⁰ But there will be glory and honor and peace from God for all who do good—for both Jew & Gentile. ¹¹ **For God does not show favoritism.***

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3. When God judges me, He will miss nothing. (v.v. 3,16)
4. When God judges me, He will be impartial. (v.v. 7-11)

5. When God judges me, He will be fair. (v.v. 12-15)

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 prove 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.

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3. When God judges me, He will miss nothing. (v.v. 3,16)
4. When God judges me, He will be impartial. (v.v. 7-11)
5. When God judges me, He will be fair. (v.v. 12-15)

6. When God judges me, He wants Jesus to be there. (v.v. 4, 16)

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? ... ¹⁶ This is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.

Three decisions right now:

1. Are you judging others?

- Stop!

... it's not your responsibility and you have no authority.

... nobody likes a judgemental person ... including God.

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2. Are you abusing God's kindness, and testing His patience?

- Repent!

... Do you really think you can hide anything from God?

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... it's not your responsibility and you have no authority.
... nobody likes a judgemental person ... including God.
2. Are you abusing God's kindness, and testing His patience?
 - Repent!
... Do you really think you can hide anything from God?
3. **Will Jesus advocate for you when you stand before God?**
 - Make sure of this ... Embrace Him!
... You do not want to face God's judgment alone.

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. ² He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

1 John 2