

Misinterpreting Mercy

Romans 2:4-5

“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.”

Misinterpreting the Temple

Misinterpreting the Torah

⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:
¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” ~ Luke 18:9-14

Small Group Questions

Romans 2:4 & 5

Getting Started

Who is Paul addressing in Romans 1? Who is he now addressing in Romans 2? What's his message to both?

Digging Deeper (Read Romans 2:1-5)

1. According to verse 4, God extends "kindness," "forbearance," "patience" to those who need to repent. Look up the words. How do their meanings point to people who need repentance?
2. We know that hardship can move a person to repentance. How can kindness do the same? Give some examples?
3. Some people might think God's kindness in their life is proof they are good people who don't need repentance. Why?
4. Some Jews in Paul's day believed their religious advantages were evidence they needed no repentance (cf. 2:17-3:2). Why did some think the Temple and Torah were given because they were good instead of bad? What about both demonstrated they weren't good? In what ways were they God's merciful provision to lead them to repentance?
5. How is Paul's warning relevant for professing Christians?
6. On Sunday we talked about God's common grace in our lives which prevents people from being as bad as they could be. Apart from religious things, what are the other ways God restrains the evil in people's hearts to lead them to repentance?
7. Why should the reality of God's restraining grace change how we see people who are "worse off" than us?

Resources

Romans: *Righteousness from Heaven* | R. Kent Hughes.

www.blueletterbible.org

www.preceptaustin.org