

## Alpha and Omega

### Romans 2:1-16

#### Self-righteousness

The Jews of Paul's day believed they were better than everyone else.

Have ever felt that as a Christian? \_\_\_\_\_

- Romans 2:1
- God sees all of our internal and external sins alike.
  - Romans 2:2-3

The self-righteous like to compare themselves with others who are struggling more than they are.

- The self-righteous person thinks that God grades on the curve.
- Have you ever thought your sin was not as bad as \_\_\_\_\_?
- Jesus told us to not hypocritically judge others.
  - Matthew 7:1-2
- God judges us based on the truth.
- The standard for God's judgment of sin is Jesus.

The self-righteous person mistakes God's patience for approval.

- Romans 2:4
- 2 Peter 3:9

The self-righteous person is stubborn and unrepentant.

- Romans 2:5
- The self-righteous person stores up God's wrath against himself.

#### God's impartial judgment

God rewards us according to our works.

- The non-Christian's works will be judged by God for salvation.
- The Christian's works will be judged by God for eternal rewards.
  - 1 Corinthians 3:12-15
- The Christian's works will be judged based on motive and obedience.
- Good works don't and can't save us.
  - Romans 4:5
- Good works are the evidence of our salvation.

- God shows no favoritism.
  - Romans 2:11

#### Religion does not save

People who do what the Bible says are righteous in God's eyes.

- Romans 2:12
- Romans 2:13
- James 1:22-23
- Matthew 7:24, 26
- God wants active doers with good fruit as evidence, not just passive listeners.
- Religion is our attempt to earn salvation by doing enough to deserve God's love.
- Religion won't save us.

#### The need for a Savior

Life after the Garden is full of sin and consequences.

- We're all sinners in need of a Savior.
  - Romans 3:22-24
- We cannot good our way to God.
- The Great Exchange is the exchange of our sin and the penalty of death taken by Jesus on the cross who in turn gave us His righteousness and the reward of eternal life, now and forever.

### Action Steps

- Ask God to show you any unclean sin or prideful self-righteousness within you and then to remove it from your life.
- Share the good news of the Great Exchange with someone this week.

### **Romans 2:1**

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you

are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

<sup>2</sup> Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. <sup>3</sup> So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? <sup>4</sup> Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

<sup>5</sup> But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. <sup>6</sup> God "will repay each person according to what they have done."<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>7</sup> To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. <sup>8</sup> But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. <sup>9</sup> There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; <sup>10</sup> but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>11</sup> For God does not show favoritism.

<sup>12</sup> All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. <sup>13</sup> For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. <sup>14</sup> (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. <sup>15</sup> They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) <sup>16</sup> This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.