**“Judgement and Grace”**

Going deeper in Romans 2:1-16

**INTRODUCTION** – Paul has just finished a long, but not exhaustive list of sins that deny God’s justice and mercy. These provoke God to anger. Paul now turns to the theme of judgment.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 1 Because of this downward spiritual whirlpool, you are without excuse when you judge. Every time you judge another you bring condemnation on yourself. Judging others is just a way of drawing attention to others while diverting attention away from your own sins. 2 We know that God sees through all of that. He judges according to the truth about what you really do. 3 You didn’t think, did you, that when you judge others that God would not see through what you were doing? 4 Or did you think that the riches of God’s goodness, kindness, and patience would let you off the hook? Think again. Isn’t it God’s goodness that leads you into a radical life-change? 5 But in proportion to your hardness and unchanged heart you have been adding fuel to the fire of God’s anger. On judgement day his righteous judgement will be revealed. 6 At that time God “will give to each person according to what he or she has done.” (Psalm 62:12; Proverbs 24:12) 7 On the one hand, those who persist in doing good there will be the real eternal life of glory, honor, and immortality, 8 but on the other hand those who insist on getting their own way, disobeying the truth, and pursuing evil, there will be real anger and wrath. 9 There will be trouble and anguish for every human being who does evil; first for the Jew then for the Gentile; 10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who does good: first to the Jew then to the Gentile. 11 There is no partiality with God. 12 All who sinned without the law will also perish apart from the law and all who sinned under the law will be judged by the law. 13 For it is not the hearing of the law that makes you righteous in God’s sight, but the doing that what makes the difference with God. 14 When outsiders (Gentiles) who do not have the law follow it instinctively they confirm the truth of it by their obedience. 15 They show that God’s law is written on their hearts, their conscience bears witness and their thoughts will either convict or defend them 16 on the day when God will judge the secrets of humanity by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What is Paul’s view of those who are passing judgment on others?

2. What should God’s goodness lead you to do according to verse 4?

3. What helps you when you are tempted to look down on someone else?

4. How do the statements in verses 5-16 about “doing” good reconcile with what Paul has already said in chapter 1 about salvation by faith (see Romans 1:5 & 1:16-17)?

5. Are there areas of your life that you have hardened your heart to what God wants?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank the Lord Jesus for his grace and goodness.

\*Ask the Spirit of God to give you eyes to see how He is working in the lives of those you know who are not walking with the Lord.

\*Ask the Spirit of God to fill you so by his power you can live graciously and righteously this week.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

God’s grace and God’s judgment are real. Paul’s words mean that your faith should make a real difference in what you do. What is the Spirit of God calling you to do this week? Perhaps there have been areas that you have hardened your heart and it is time to do something about it, by the power of the Holy Spirit.