



**Life is Not a Soap  
Judgment - No Bystanders, Phonies, or Highly Religious Folks Excluded  
Romans 2:1-6**

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My Great Grandma Harrison loved to watch soap operas. The only problem for her though was her schedule. She went to work at 4am and then got home around 1 or so in the afternoon and took a nap. She would turn on her soaps, then nap and let me tell you, she would blend all the programs together into one amazing yarn. It sounded like everyone was cheating on everyone else and I couldn't figure out how



Mike was stealing from the hospital when he worked in a funeral parlor for a vampire. I would walk to her house from school around 2:30 and listen to the stories while eating cookies.

But have you noticed, people still like to watch soaps and other programs depicting wickedness that is off the charts. Why is that?

Dr. Zubernis tells us that “soap operas are also beloved because they’re a reminder that someone else’s life is always even more challenging than most viewers’ lives. The drama is intentionally over the top, with mad scientist types threatening to unleash a lethal virus on the world or create a machine to control the weather for nefarious purposes. The everyday challenges are constant, too—if a character isn’t on the brink of death, their partner is probably jumping into bed with someone else or their newborn baby is about to be kidnapped. In comparison, viewers may feel like their own life challenges aren’t insurmountable after all.” (Zubernis, Ph.D. 2023)

Here in Romans, we also discover that this watching and looking at others who are perceived by us to be much worse off than us was going on as well. Once again, nothing is really new but now, at least someone sells soap at the same time. Yes, that is why they were called soap operas back in the day. What is it that Paul picks up on? He has just provided a progression of sin letting us know from origin to fully developed, what sin does, what it produces and what the impacts are. And having been a pharisee in the past, he also knows the professional predilection he once had, to point at others and accuse them. He knows this is a problem for many more.

Romans 2:1–4

**“Therefore you have no excuse, you foolish person, everyone of you who passes judgment; for in that matter in which you judge someone else, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things. But do you suppose this, you foolish person who passes judgment on those who practice such things, and yet does them as well, that you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and restraint and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?”** (NASB 2020)

For all who want to say that Romans 1 points to gentiles and Romans 2 points to the Jews, the ‘therefore’ takes the fire out of that argument. Chapter divisions are helpful at times, but there are also times where it creates an artificial boundary that simply does not exist. The issue is simple, Paul has been talking to all of mankind coming up to this point, both the Jew and the Gentile. Believer and unbeliever and for the unbeliever the message has not been a fun one to digest. What Paul does here is not different than we would do as well, he has established a series of arguments and now produces someone who is listening in and enjoying “others” being held accountable, but they would say they are not like that at all.

Paul knows those who would do that quite well, he worked with them in the Temple, Jesus even pointed out to those pharisees their hypocrisy over this same topic of pointing fingers at others. Let’s join in to listening to Jesus as He torches the same folks Paul would torch as well. How big of a deal is religious hypocrisy? Per Jesus, huge.

Matthew 23:13–33

**“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you shut the door of the Kingdom of Heaven in people’s faces. You won’t go in yourselves, and you don’t let others enter either. What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you cross land and sea to make one convert, and then you turn that person into twice the child of hell you yourselves are! Blind guides! What sorrow awaits you! For you say that it means nothing to swear ‘by God’s Temple,’ but that it is binding to swear ‘by the gold in the Temple.’ Blind fools! Which is more important—the gold or the Temple that makes the gold sacred? And you say that to swear**



'by the altar' is not binding, but to swear 'by the gifts on the altar' is binding. How blind! **For which is more important—the gift on the altar or the altar that makes the gift sacred? When you swear 'by the altar,' you are swearing by it and by everything on it. And when you swear 'by the Temple,' you are swearing by it and by God, who lives in it. And when you swear 'by heaven,' you are swearing by the throne of God and by God, who sits on the throne.** What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! **For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.** Blind guides! **You strain your water so you won't accidentally swallow a gnat, but you swallow a camel!** What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! **For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence!** You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too. What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! **For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people's bones and all sorts of impurity. Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.** What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you build tombs for the prophets your ancestors killed, and you decorate the monuments of the godly people your ancestors destroyed. Then you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would never have joined them in killing the prophets.' But in saying that, **you testify against yourselves that you are indeed the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Go ahead and finish what your ancestors started. Snakes! Sons of vipers! How will you escape the judgment of hell?**" (NLT)

You can almost see Paul, who was once of the group Jesus addressed, now doing the same, and then pointing right at them and saying:

Romans 2:1

**"Therefore you have no excuse,** you foolish person, everyone of you who passes judgment; for in that matter in which you judge someone else, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things." (NASB 2020)

Are there so-called leaders today in the church who are more interested in pointing a finger at someone else in order to keep eyes off of themselves? Absolutely. "The frightening fact is that even false leaders often use Scripture. The Pharisees and scribes knew the Bible better than anyone. They spent their lives memorizing it. But Jesus' directive in Matthew 23:3 simply means this: The degree to which even a false teacher uses Scripture faithfully, do it and observe it. The Word of God is good, even if the people who handle it are not. Don't throw out God's Word. But be wise about whom you receive it from and what they demand of you. (Johnson and VanVonderen 1991, 122)

Paul is not only pointing to the religious hypocrite, the one who thinks he or she is better than everyone else because they haven't committed those sins, or so they think. To do that ignores what Paul said earlier as they have compartmentalized their thinking. We tend to do the same thing. We like to separate out our church life from the rest of life so that there is the church me and then there is the non-church me.

That is a fiction and is simply just another form of the suppression of the truth. They are claiming to know God yet have taken the bait of Satan and fallen headlong into Romans 1:22 "Claiming to be wise, they became fools," (Romans 1:22, NASB 2020)

This is confirmed by Paul calling that person standing there and pointing their finger while shaking their head nothing more than a person, literally, in the Greek it is "you person" with foolish implied; and tying verse 18 into what he is saying here by linking it with "therefore." There is a truth about all of us that none



of us want to accept. We, as “human beings never seem able fully to admit their (our) wrongdoing and never tire of making excuses for their (our) bad behavior.” (Boice 1991-, 201)

Flip Wilson used to say, “the devil made me do it.” I would venture to guess that today, most Christians would agree with that statement since. Per George Barna, 72% of self-identified Christians believe that people are all good at heart. (Barna 2025)

The reality per the Bible is far from that. We are all related by birth to Adam and Eve. They were fed a lie told to them by Satan and rejected God in order to make themselves God buying the lie. Eve bought it.

Genesis 3:5

“For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and **you will be like God**, knowing good and evil.” (ESV)

In Corinth, Paul recognized quickly that there were those who were still buying the lie, even after hearing about and accepting the truth of Jesus Christ. You would think that as followers of Jesus, we would know better, but are we allowing the Holy Spirit the bandwidth to teach us to know better?

None of us instantly develops a Biblical worldview at the moment we are saved. It takes time. We have years of whatever worldview we had bought into before and it does indeed take the Holy Spirit time to get rid of it. We must participate in that activity, it goes by the name, sanctification or becoming more like Jesus. But we can instead choose to be like some of the folks in Corinth.

2 Corinthians 11:3–4

“But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.” (ESV)

Why? The diagnosis of the condition of the human heart was provided to us by Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 17:9

“**The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it?**” (NRSVue)

No one sets out in ministry or as a follower of Jesus Christ to intentionally engage in a duplicitous life. We are all sinners saved by grace and for all of us, there are those sins which we feel like we just can't get away from. We feel like we have been ensnared by these besetting sins. This is a lie from the enemy. Let me interject a tidbit of truth.

1 John 4:4

“You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because **greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.**” (NASB 2020)

And yes, there are indeed those things Satan knows about us and attacks intentionally.

Hebrews 12:1–2

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (NKJV)



The writer of Hebrews here lets us know, you are not alone, this is a problem we all have. Robert Morey has this to say on the topic.

*God nowhere promised in Scripture to deliver us from ever having to deal again with this or that particular sin when He saved us. A “besetting” sin is a character flaw with which we struggle, such as impatience or melancholy, or “thought” sins such as lust or anger.*

*One point is very clear: There are no instant cures for besetting sins or we would not continue to struggle with them. They chase us like a pack of wild dogs. We may try to beat them off with spiritual sticks or use spiritual Mace. We may try every gimmick known to man to get them away from us. But, from time to time, they will catch up to us and maul us. (Morey 2003, 135)*

Why Lord? The first point would be exactly what Paul is covering here, to not look down our noses at others who are either serious sinners as the text shows us or are struggling with certain sins. Secondly, knowing that we all have this problem of a sin nature and we all have those sins which pop up from time to time should help to keep us humble.

James 3:2

“For **we all stumble in many things**. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.” (NKJV)

But none of us are perfect, only Christ is.

Why does this sin pop up every now and then? Stress, lack of sleep, having a bad day, doing life, living in a fallen body on a fallen planet. And more.

A third thing to remember is knowing we have this ongoing sin nature we must leave in the care of the Holy Spirit as much as possible, helps us to love on and give grace to other believers. Reminder:

Romans 2:1

“Therefore you have no excuse, you foolish person, everyone of you who passes judgment; for in that matter in which you judge someone else, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.” (NASB 2020)

Philippians 2:3

“**Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves;**” (NASB 2020)

We are all weak in some area. Money, anger, pornography, greed, gluttony. Once we realize it is that part of the sin nature the Holy Spirit is working on to keep under control in our life, and when we blow it elsewhere, they pop up again, then we understand the why as to that happening. They are that hound dog that decides the full moon needs a song at about 2am. Or the mockingbird under the streetlight who, since he can't sleep, makes sure you can't either.

And here is the thing, it isn't your fate, all that does is provide an excuse for sin. When we are saved, we do not become perfect at that point. Our reality is this, we now recognize the flesh for what it is and now know the Holy Spirit wants and desires so much more for us.

Galatians 5:17

“**For the desire of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh;** for these are in opposition to one another, in order to keep you from doing whatever you want.” (NASB 2020)



The good news, Jesus still loves you and me even though we still have this, for us, temporary personality flaw of the sin nature. When we are glorified, it is gone. Until then, we have this promise.

1 John 1:8–9

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**” (ESV)

The good news for us as followers of Jesus Christ is that these sins do not have to control us. It is not our fate to do so and so. It isn't because we are no longer slaves to sin thanks to Jesus. When we come to Him, we are set free.

John 8:36

“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (ESV)

The only power Satan has is that which we give him. Again, most temptation, isn't him, it is our own flesh, but he piles on.

Galatians 2:20

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And **the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**” (ESV)

Operative word, by faith, if we have allowed sin to get in the way, we are in the flesh and knowing that we run right back to 1 John 1:9 and repent. If there are certain circumstances that tempt us, stop subjecting yourself to them.

Romans 13:14

“**But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh,** to gratify its desires.” (ESV)

As we pray, pray for the wisdom which is promised in James 1:5, the wisdom necessary to change our habits, our patterns, our mouth, our attitude and allow ourselves to become conformed, transformed actually, more and more to be like Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 1:14–16

“**As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,** since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”” (ESV)

Romans 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind,** so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (NASB 2020)

This does not happen overnight; the Greek makes that clear by telling us it is a continuous action with no end date.

So, back to the topic of faith, that is where we must live, walking by faith.

2 Corinthians 5:6–9

“So we are always of good courage. **We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.**” (ESV)



Here is the thing, we are not good at heart, not at all. We are indeed all sinners, saved by grace, if indeed we are in Christ, yes. But we are still sinners. That is an unfortunate condition that we will continue to live with until we are given glorified bodies in the rapture of the church or in the resurrection. In those bodies, we will no longer have the sin nature. How sure are we of that taking place? Totally.

Romans 8:30

“And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.” (NRSVue)

The past tense in regard to “glorified” verifies that God sees our spirits and souls, who we are, as finished products...“Glorified” in this context points to what was done in our spirits and souls in conjunction with being placed in Christ and made new. (Warren 2013, 130)

There are no bystanders who will get a pass, no phonies and no ultra super religious types either. Just saved by grace sinners who understand who they were and now are in Jesus Christ. We have nothing other than the sin we gave Him that He washed away with His blood, leaving us with nothing but Christ in us, the Holy Spirit.

Romans 2:1

“Therefore you have no excuse, you foolish person, **everyone of you who passes judgment; for in that matter in which you judge someone else, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.**” (NASB 2020)

All of us are born with a conscience. It is that nagging voice that tells us not to do this or that inferring it might be wrong. It is an innate sense of right and wrong. And yes, it is possible to dull it and remove its effectiveness. The religious person will beat you over the head with a Bible, or beads, or penance to be paid while at the same time, they are doing exactly what you did yet not caught or perhaps not feeling guilty over it. What about the non-religious/non-believer?

Francis Schaeffer tells us that “as soon as a child feels the pang of conscience, struggles against it, and sins, he has acknowledged that there is a meaningful moral law in the universe. As soon as he says, “I ought to do this” but then does the opposite instead, he acknowledges a moral law. Numerous modern thinkers—psychologists, anthropologists, sociologists—have tried to explain away this moral imperative. And yet all of them have felt the twinge of their own conscience. Just like a pinched nerve, their conscience has warned them not to do many of the things they have done. Based on this innate sense of right and wrong, people without the Bible judge others (2:1), and in the process judge themselves as well, because they “do the same things” (2:1). (Schaeffer 1998, 46-47)

In other words, there is no out.

Romans 2:1

“Therefore you have no excuse, you foolish person, everyone of you who passes judgment; for in that matter in which you judge someone else, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.” (NASB 2020)

Revelation 20:12

“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. **And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.**” (ESV)

The judgment of God will be completely and totally just. It will not be based on things that you do not know, but on what we do know. For the person living out in the jungle, that is the standard, the same



standard as for the professor of religion who never bothered to believe in what Jesus Christ did on the cross. One has more knowledge than the other and Revelation 20:12 says judgment is based on their works. Those works flow from what they know.

Romans 2:2–3

“And **we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.** But do you suppose this, you foolish person who passes judgment on those who practice such things, and yet does them as well, that you will escape the judgment of God?” (NASB 2020)

His justice will rightly fall on those who practice those things he discussed earlier in chapter 1, but so will the same judgment on those who pass judgment but are also doing the exact same things. We also do have a Biblical example of this that shows up in the life of David.

2 Samuel 12:1–14

“Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him, and said to him: “There were two men in one city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had exceedingly many flocks and herds. But the poor man had nothing, except one little ewe lamb which he had bought and nourished; and it grew up together with him and with his children. It ate of his own food and drank from his own cup and lay in his bosom; and it was like a daughter to him. And a traveler came to the rich man, who refused to take from his own flock and from his own herd to prepare one for the wayfaring man who had come to him; but he took the poor man’s lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him.” So David’s anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity.” Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! Why have you despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’ Thus says the LORD: ‘Behold, I will raise up adversity against you from your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, before the sun.’” So David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.”” (NKJV)

David listened to the story and judged the man based on what Nathan told him. When Nathan hit David with “You are the man,” he was telling David that you looked on at others and judged them for the same actions which you had already done. He took Bathsheba (lamb) from Uriah (poor man) had him killed no less and then kept Bathsheba for his own pleasure. David, here is the question, “...do you suppose this, you foolish person who passes judgment on those who practice such things, and yet does them as well, that you will escape the judgment of God?” (Romans 2:3, NASB 2020) And the answer is a resounding, no. God does indeed judge fairly, justly and righteously. Those who point a finger now have three pointing right back at them and what was condemned in others, they too will suffer the penalty for.

It isn’t fate, it is sin and we all have the same disease. Paul isn’t done with this yet, he continues and asks another question of those who were like he used to be, religious, observant, and lost; but willing to point out how they aren’t sinners like that person is.



Romans 2:4–5

**“Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and restraint and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?** But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,” (NASB 2020)

Paul is trying to make it abundantly clear that we are not to presume upon God. Paul is saying that those who have passed judgment on others, who have decided that they are truly the most holy of all, are actually making presumptions about what their so-called faith is all about.

This does not mean as Christians, we never judge others, there are times where we should do so. “In fact, in John 7:24, Jesus commanded the people to “judge with right judgment” and not to “judge by appearance.” In Matthew 7:15–20 Jesus told us to judge “by their fruits” to see if a man is a true prophet or a false prophet. In Matthew 7:6 we must judge whether a person is a dog or not, and a swine or not. In 1 John 4:1–6 we are told how to judge whether the spirits are true or false. In 1 Corinthians 2:15 we are told, “The spiritual man judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.”” (Lewis 1997, 8)

Faith rests upon the promises of God; presumption distorts the promises of God. Opportunity comes to faith; presumption strains to create opportunity. Faith opportunities are entered with the eyes open; presumptuous action is entered with the eyes closed. Faith counts the cost; presumption expects a free ride. Faith operates on a strain as do the strings of a violin; presumption operates under a strain as does the improvident debtor. The price of faith is paid before the act; the price of presumption is paid after the act. Faith is peace; presumption is neurotic. Faith is a gift of the Spirit; presumption is a hallucination of the flesh. Faith is confident; presumption is desperate. Faith walks hand in hand with God; presumption cringes in company with pride. (Smith 2019, 536)

One of the things we see in a careful study of the Old Testament is that the nation of Israel reached the point where they presumed that God was okay with them simply because they were Jewish. That would be the same today as thinking everything is okay with God because you go to church or were born in this country.

One should not presume upon the riches of His kindness in that He has provided salvation to those who believe in spite of our vast experience and predilection to sin. He is good to us as we are as of yet, not judged.

One should not presume upon His restraint in regard to our present condition. If we have come to Christ, we have resolved this issue, but for the moralist who is pointing with no true faith in Christ, right now at this very moment, that person is fallen and yet God has held back His judgment. The problem is simple; all have fallen short (Romans 3:23).

Finally, we are not to presume upon God’s patience. Many of us would love to Jesus come and take us home right now. But we still have a job to do and it is because of His patience and longsuffering.

2 Peter 3:8–9

“Now, dear friends, do not let this one thing escape your notice, that a single day is like a thousand years with the Lord and a thousand years are like a single day. **The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some regard slowness, but is being patient toward you, because he does not wish for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

God’s kindness, restraint and patience are all described to us here as riches. Now we know and see how great God’s riches are towards us and for those who presume upon that, it means they actually believe



that they deserve it. None of us do, for by grace we are saved. We deserve hell but God's grace changed all of that for us who believe.

All of this is intended to lead us to repentance, not to pride. When we realize who He is and what He has done for us in Christ, we are then only beginning to understand His kindness, His goodness to us.

David Guzik draws a picture for us as well as for those Paul is speaking of, those who presume upon God.

1. God has been better to them than they deserve
2. God has shown them kindness when they have ignored Him
3. God has shown them kindness when they have mocked Him
4. God is not a cruel master and they may safely surrender to Him
5. God is perfectly willing to forgive them
6. God should be served out of simple gratitude (Guzik 2013, Ro 2:4-5)

Here is the thing, God does not drive anyone to trust in Christ, the Holy Spirit does not force you to repent or believe in Christ. He leads us to this point. The Holy Spirit draws us to Christ, and we want to know more, or we are so overwhelmed with the truth we want more and believe.

God's purpose in his kindness is not to excuse sin but to stimulate repentance. (Moo 1996, 133)

Romans 2:5

"But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart **you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,**" (NASB 2020)

There is coming a point in time where God will cease to withhold His judgment. Unless the one who is busy judging others and thinking they are okay comes to Christ, all they are doing is storing up wrath. We live in the last days, literally at the end of history.

All of the signs around us point to that. When you see all of the things Jesus said would precede His second coming already casting shadows today, look up.

Luke 21:28–31

"So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!" Then he gave them this illustration: "Notice the fig tree, or any other tree. When the leaves come out, you know without being told that summer is near. In the same way, **when you see all these things taking place, you can know that the Kingdom of God is near.**" (NLT)

That means the pretribulation rapture of the church is happening really soon. Jesus promised to get us (John 14:1-4), and He is about to do so.

When that moment happens, God's patience with the sin of man will be over. The Day of the Lord will begin.

1 Thessalonians 5:2–11

"For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk,



are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. **For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.** Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.” (ESV)

The Day of the Lord is all about the wrath of God and for those of us who know Jesus Christ, we will not be here for it. I am so glad. Isaiah provides us a quick glimpse.

Isaiah 13:9–13

“Behold, **the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with wrath and fierce anger, to make the land a desolation and to destroy its sinners from it.** For the stars of the heavens and their constellations will not give their light; the sun will be dark at its rising, and the moon will not shed its light. I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant, and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless. I will make people more rare than fine gold, and mankind than the gold of Ophir. **Therefore I will make the heavens tremble, and the earth will be shaken out of its place, at the wrath of the LORD of hosts in the day of his fierce anger.**” (ESV)

Romans 2:5–6

“But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath and revelation of **the righteous judgment of God, who WILL REPAY EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS:**” (NASB 2020)

The judgment of God will be totally and completely just. It is by faith we are saved, not through works but if you rely on works, then here is the thing, God will judge the entire unbelieving planet the same way. Here is what that will look like.

Revelation 20:12–13

“And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne. Then books were opened, and another book was opened—the book of life. So the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to their deeds. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each one was judged according to his deeds.” (NET 2nd ed.)

At this immediate moment, we are still living in a time where the kindness of God can still be found in the completed work of Jesus Christ. If you don't know Him, right now is your time to come to Him. If you are a believer and have been coasting, your time to return is now too.

Romans 3:21–24

“But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.” (NLT)

Romans 10:9–13

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)



### ABC's of Salvation

- A. Acknowledge that you are a sinner, tell Him that.
- B. Believe that Jesus died on the cross for our sin and that He rose from the dead.
- C. Confess that Jesus is Lord. Tell someone about what you have done.

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