

# II

## Judging & Being Judged

### ROMANS 2:1-11

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. <sup>2</sup> We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. <sup>3</sup> Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? <sup>4</sup> Or 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? <sup>5</sup> But 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.

<sup>6</sup> He will render to each one according to his works:

<sup>7</sup> to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory

and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; <sup>8</sup> but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. <sup>9</sup> There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, <sup>10</sup> but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. <sup>11</sup> For God shows no partiality.

#### DEUTERONOMY 16:18–20

You shall appoint judges and officers in all your towns that the Lord your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. <sup>19</sup> You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. <sup>20</sup> Justice, and only justice, you shall follow, that you may live and inherit the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

#### TITUS 1:7, 9

For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach... <sup>9</sup> He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

## READ | ROMANS 2:1–11

## THINK ABOUT

The previous passage, Romans 1:18–32, is a tough passage. Paul writes about the wrath of God and then describes a depraved society which practices homosexuality, wickedness, envy, murder, slander, disobedience to parents, and more. This society not only commits these sins but encourages others to do so.

In reading the verses in Romans 1, it would be very easy to say they don't apply to us. We are quick to condemn others of sins that we are not tempted to commit, or if we do commit them, we do so in secret! In Romans 2:1–11, we see that there really is no place to hide. From society's point of view, you may not be the worst sinner, but beneath your outward religiosity and morality, there may well be hidden and secret sins. You may be good at judging other people, but what about yourself? What particular sins do you judge in others? What areas are there in your life where you think "you will escape the judgment of God?" (v. 3)

## APPLY

We all have met judgmental, mean-minded, and critical individuals who are professing Christians. They love to criticize and gossip about others. But what about you? Who have you recently judged? What do you see in others that you criticize?

Paul makes it clear that God's kindness and patience are "meant to lead you to repentance" (v. 4). Where do you see God's kindness to you? It is very easy to take God's goodness and kindness for granted rather than as a motivation to love and serve God and others. So let's focus on judging ourselves rather than judging others: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what is done in the body, whether good or evil" (2 Corinthians 5:10).

ASK

*What did you learn from this passage about the judgment of God?*

*What did you learn about your own judgmental attitudes?*

*What changes are you going to make?*

PRAY

*Lord, help me not to take You for granted, but may Your kindness and goodness lead me to be less judgmental of others and more like Jesus Christ.*

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SING

“Good Good Father” — Chris Tomlin

## THE BIG IDEA

*The main purpose of this passage is to help the moralistic Jews see that they also stand condemned before God. They were quick to label Gentiles as sinners and condemn them. The Jews needed to understand that God will use the same measuring rod to judge them and that they are no better than Gentiles.*

## KEY POINTS

Those who delight in passing judgment will also be judged by God (vv. 1–3).

The wrath of God is experienced by all those who reject God's grace (vv. 4–5).

God will appropriately judge everyone according to their deeds (vv. 6–11).

## LIFE APPLICATION

While it is not wrong to judge, those who do so must be prepared to be judged accordingly.

All men are equally sinners in need of God's grace.

While we can hide some of our deeds from men, God sees all things and will judge accordingly.

The good deeds of humankind are not meritorious for salvation.

## DISCUSSION

What do you think about those who say that it is unbiblical to "judge" someone?


Under what circumstances should we "judge" someone?

What image would you have in your mind of God if He showed partiality?

“JUDGING AND BEING JUDGED”

Romans 2:1-11

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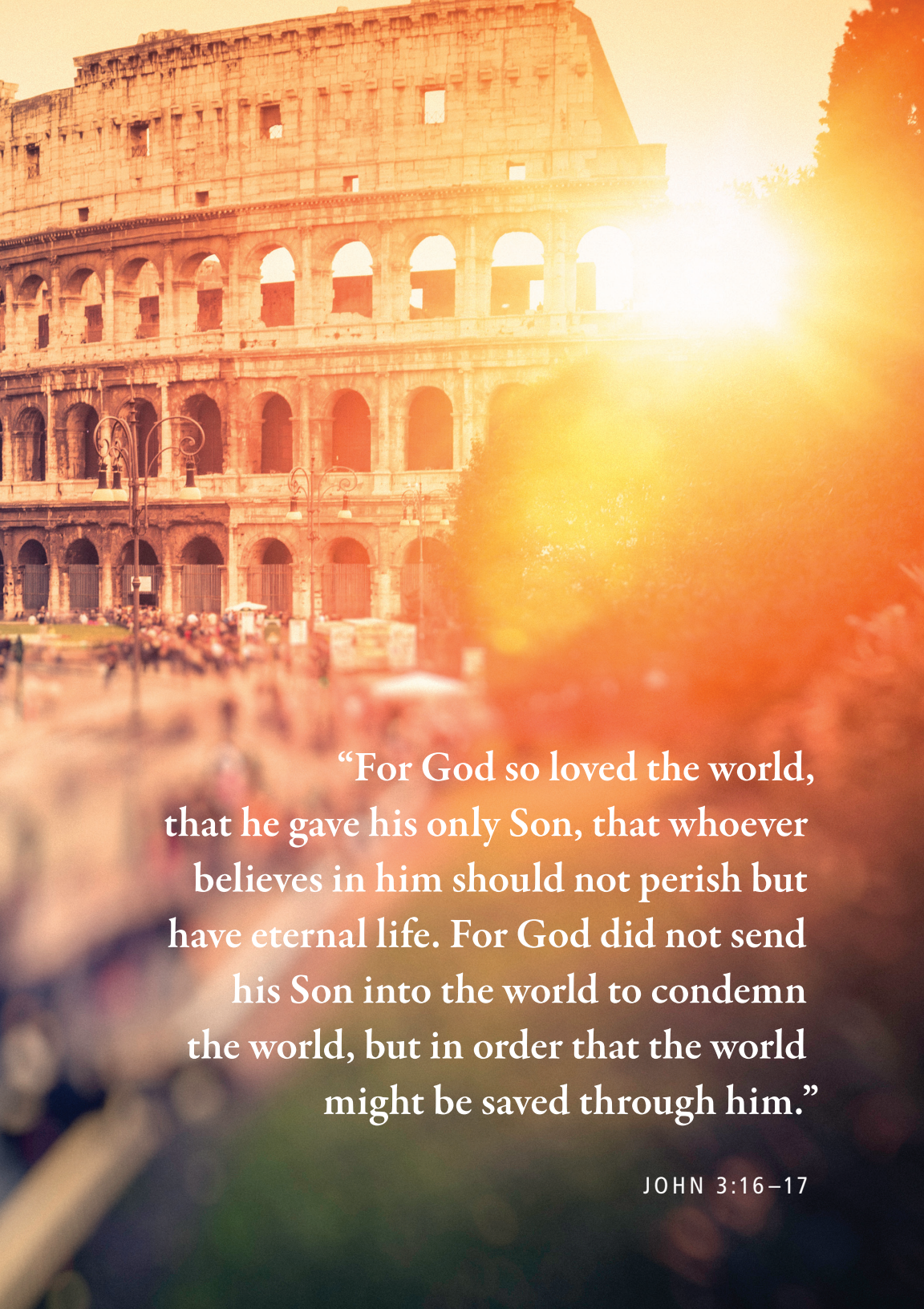
CLAIMING  
TO BE  
WISE  
THEY  
BECAME  
FOOLS

ROMANS 1:22









“For God so loved the world,  
that he gave his only Son, that whoever  
believes in him should not perish but  
have eternal life. For God did not send  
his Son into the world to condemn  
the world, but in order that the world  
might be saved through him.”

JOHN 3:16–17