

## **Romans 2:1-11**

Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. <sup>2</sup>You say, "We know that God's judgment on those who do such things is in accordance with truth." <sup>3</sup>Do you imagine, whoever you are, that when you judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself, you will escape the judgment of God? <sup>4</sup>Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? <sup>5</sup>But by 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>For he will repay according to each one's deeds: <sup>7</sup>to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory and honour and immortality, he will give eternal life; <sup>8</sup>while for those who are self-seeking and who obey not the truth but wickedness, there will be wrath and fury. <sup>9</sup>There will be anguish and distress for everyone who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, <sup>10</sup>but glory and honour and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. <sup>11</sup>For God shows no partiality.

Over the years we have all met a wide variety of people from differing backgrounds and involved in a variety of occupations, interests and more beside. Some of these people can look at and think, "I could not do that." There could be a whole variety of reasons for that response. Perhaps feeling that you did not have the intellect for such a role, a lack of talent or fear could be some of the reasons.

A number of years ago I was able to sit in the Judges Chambers for a judge in the Family Court whilst she met with families. She was required to respond to, or pass judgement on, their particular situations. I was amazed at the way some people responded to the situations they were in and how this judge had to work out the best way forward.

Passing judgement on another is something, at times, we do so easily and we do not even have all the information before us. We talk about people and pass our thoughts on to another person and can influence how they see a situation or a person.

Paul wrote "for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the same things." We may seek to argue we are not as bad as another for we grade sin like crimes in a justice system. In the world of sin, sin is sin, however "small" we may see our sin; sin separates us from the love of God. It is through faith in the risen Christ alone that sin is forgiven and restoration of a relationship with God is reformed.

It is God's kindness that leads us to repentance, his kindness brings us to that point in life when we realise that we have been going in the wrong direction and need to "turn around".

I will never be a judge in a judicial system, a top class sportsperson, a strong labourer on a building site or some many other type of people. That is fine because that is not the type of person I was created to be.

I am called to be myself and not judge others and not show partiality. There are some ways I am called to be like God and others I am not. I am not called to judge a person for their eternal state, but I am called to be impartial in how I treat others in this physical realm – that is not easy either.