



October 15, 2023

***Romans: Rooted in Jesus
Distorted Vision***

Romans 2:2-8

For Discussion and Reflection

1. The Jewish believers thought they had good reason to despise and show partiality to their Gentile brothers and sisters. Can you summarize some of the beliefs they held that fostered that behavior?
2. Israel is the first people group to be in covenant with God. Certainly, that is an important point that has value. But while Israel valued the privilege, they neglected the responsibility. Consider how God describes his relationship with them in Isaiah 1:2-9, 5:1-7. So now, instead of God's name being glorified by the pagan nations, how is God viewed? 2:24 (Isaiah 52:5, notice that God's name is despised because of how his people are being treated. Confused? Remember that God's people are experiencing judgment for their sin.) When the church is divided and showing partiality (of any sort), how is God viewed among the nations?
3. Paul makes a bold and direct statement, "God shows no partiality." He does not play favorites, showing one group of lawbreakers favor while punishing another. He does not give exemptions even to his own covenant people. He doesn't make distinctions, all are sinners, and all deserve his judgment, 2:2, (every ethnicity, every socio-economic class, male and female, Jew and Gentile). What in us promotes partiality with others? What in us makes us think that God favors us apart from Christ?
4. The Jewish believers were focused on their religious practices and rites, and how they perceived that made them better than others (2:25, circumcision). They failed to understand "grace," that everything we have and are comes to us from God through Jesus Christ, 1 Corinthians 4:7. They failed to remember that the only thing that we deserve is the eternal outpouring of God's wrath. Anything beyond that is mercy and grace. How do we maintain that humility of grace in our lives? How do we do battle with the self-righteousness that so often leads us to partiality?
5. Romans 2:4, Paul tells the believers that they were presuming on God's kindness and patience. His patience with our sin and rebellion is not a sign of weakness but of mercy. Consider 2 Peter 3:8,9. As evil in the world persists, how should we understand the patience of God?
6. God has placed the throne of his kingdom and the rights of over to the risen Christ, Romans 1:1-6. He announces in our text the coming day of judgment, when our secrets will be revealed: 2:2,3,5,8-10,16. Have you considered the character of the person God has chosen to judge the world? Read about him in Isaiah 11:1-5. Reflect on his character.
7. What did the Spirit communicate to you today through his word? What steps can you take to grow in grace?