

ROMANS

THE IMPARTIAL JUDGE

WEEK 3 | DAVE D'ANGELO

KEY POINTS

- Scripture is divine revelation from one author, God Himself, written through 40 human authors across 1,500 years, and its cohesion and connectedness are not accidental but miraculous.
- The Bible is for us but not about us; believers must pursue the author before seeking answers, because encountering God produces gratitude and hope rather than offense and anger.
- God is not merely a judge but the judge, and He is perfectly impartial, unlike any human authority, because He judges according to a standard rather than identity or status.
- The standard of judgment is Christ, and that standard is available to all people, including those without written law, because the law is written on every human heart and conscience.
- God sees not only external actions but also hidden intentions and secret sins, and His judgment will account for both.
- Judgment is always preceded by God's kindness, forbearance, and patience, which are meant to lead people to repentance.
- God, as judge, chose to absorb the sentence of sin by sending His Son to die in the place of sinners, which is the heart of the gospel Paul is unfolding in Romans.
- Works are not the basis of salvation, but genuine faith in Christ naturally produces works as evidence of that faith.
- Paul identifies three hidden sins that plague the church: **hypocrisy**, which is condemning others for sins one commits oneself; **judgmentalism**, which is condemning people rather than pointing them toward redemption in Christ; and **presumption**, which is ignoring God's calls to repentance and justifying continued sin.
- Spiritual superiority, expressed through these three sins, leads people away from God rather than toward Him and amounts to worshiping one's own morality rather than God.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Romans 2:1-16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Dave warns that treating the Bible primarily as a self-help book or a moral measuring stick means taking divine revelation for granted. In what ways have you found yourself doing this, and what would it look like to reorient your reading around encountering the Author first?
2. Romans 2 presents God as a perfectly impartial judge who evaluates all people against the same standard regardless of identity or privilege. How does that truth challenge or comfort you personally, and why?
3. Pastor Dave draws a distinction between identifying sin for redemptive purposes and condemning others out of a spirit of superiority. Where do you find that line most difficult to navigate in your own relationships?
4. Romans 2 teaches that God's kindness, forbearance, and patience always precede judgment and are meant to lead people to repentance. How does recognizing those moments of divine patience in your own life change how you respond to them?
5. Understanding God as a perfect, impartial judge actually makes the gospel shine more brightly rather than making it feel more threatening. Do you agree with that claim, and how has your own view of divine judgment shaped your appreciation for the gospel?

***TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION,** check out the additional Week Three Discussion Guide under Small Group Materials in the North Way app under Romans.