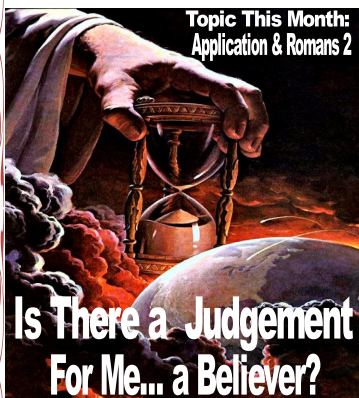


Just A Minute! With Scripture

The King James Bible is used for all references. Words /verses may be made bold/numbered for emphasis.



Romans begins by explaining that God separated Paul to instruct the Body of Christ about the gospel. The character of God and man is also taught in the first chapter. God is a gracious, loving Creator, while man is ungodly and unrighteous. Historically, they "...did not like to retain God in their knowledge." (vs. 28)

Romans 2 progresses saints in thinking by describing God's righteous judgment. It effectively deals with man's vain excuses and accusations against God, and His sure judgment: "Who will render to every man according to his deeds...For there is no respect of persons with God." (Vs. 6,11)

The question is, will believers be judged at the great White Throne Judgment? "And I saw **the dead**, small and great stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and **the dead** were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works...And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." (Rev. 20:12,15) The answer is No! Only 'those dead in sin' shall be judged here (Col. 2:13). Once we trust Christ's blood, we are 'alive from the dead' (Romans 6:13).



I Corinthians 3:13-15 describes specifics about OUR judgment. Read these verses carefully to note that it is about rewards, not punishment.

"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, **he shall receive a reward**. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

This is called the Judgment Seat of Christ: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (II Cor. 5:10) Yes, believers are judged and God cares very much whether we grow spiritually and what we do. He evaluates our works to burn away the dross to present rewards. How comforting!

Note: We, therefore, have no need to judge ourselves or others. God can be counted upon to make all things right (I Timothy 5:24-25).



Judging Others: Putting Someone 'Under the Law?'

Today, we are under the system of God's grace and not to judge ourselves or others by the law: "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace." (Rom. 6:14) Being under the law can refer to the Mosaic Law, but it may also relate to being under someone's rules or our own expectations. Often it permeates how we relate in relationships. Expectations can be unspoken desires/controls.

The Jews put Gentiles under the Law: "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?" (Rom. 2:21) "Shoulds, musts, and need tos can flag us to law expectations, and can cause heavy responsibility, failure, and wrath. The Law's purpose was to show sin and that man needs a Savior. (Rom. 3:20, 4:15)

We can put others under 'our law' without realizing it: You better...' or Don't ever...', etc. Legalism also happens in our thoughts: 'My way is better than his.' or 'I'll try hard to be good!' It's judging ourselves or others as a god would; clearly it is NOT our job. It's self-exalting and condemning. (Rom. 1:21-23)

Elevating our ideas over others leads to legalism (placing someone under our standards, as their judge and God.) "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." (Rom. 12:3)

To Do: We can replace legalism and high-mindedness with thankfulness to obey God, forgiving and loving others: "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another." (Rom. 12:10)



Search it out!

Study Tool: Application of Scripture

Examine verses!



This month, we will practically use the first study option on Page 15 in 'Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools' to apply Romans 2:29. (This new book can now be found on Amazon.)

Application of Scripture: a) Read the verse/context. b) Think about the verses to be sure you understand what it is teaching. c) Pray/meditate on the passage to determine how to adjust things in your life to obey as you yield to God. d) Make changes needed.

1. Read through *Romans 2*, but focus on *Section 25-29*, regarding the inward, heart circumcision. Write down questions about the passage: _____

2. Define unclear words in *Verse 29* and the surrounding context to understand the thrust of the passage: _____

3. Explain what *Romans 2:29* means? _____

4. Describe the inward heart circumcision. How does a Jew receive the praise of God in this verse? _____

5. Think about this verse and how it can apply to you personally. Do you have a circumcised heart or an uncircumcised heart? Why do you think so? _____

6. Though written to Israel, read *Deuteronomy 10:12-16* to realize what God sees as important. Write down what helps you think out heart circumcision: _____

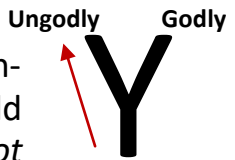
7. Think, pray, and then list how you can make changes in your life. _____



Communication: How to live GRACE in LAW Relationships

Since the only person you can change is you, the first priority is to learn how to respond to others in grace. Ask yourself, 'Do I put others under the law with my expectations, underlying desires, unspoken rules for behavior, or tendency to control how things should be done?' If this is the case, it's key to realize a couple of things. First, what you are doing in legalism and second, realizing when it happens in the moment. Attaining awareness may take some time, reflection on situations, and prayer.

How can you respond in grace? Use the 'Y' in the road. When you're trying to control another person in legalism (Yielding to ungodliness), STOP, recall who you are in Christ, and yield to God. Show kindness and grace, living what you know and believe in the Word: "Let not sin therefore reign...Neither yield ye your members as **instruments of unrighteousness unto sin**: but yield yourselves unto God...and your members as **instruments of righteousness unto God**." (Rom.6:12-13)



As you become aware of your own legalistic behavior, you can be more compassionate and understanding toward others, who may also be unknowingly doing it to you. When someone puts you under the law, how can you recognize it? You may sense heaviness, feel like you are being dominated or pressured, or experience anger or frustration. These are flags indicating the law. STOP, think, and pray. If you continue to go to the left in the 'Y,' your anger will build. Yield unto God (to the right), as an instrument of righteousness. Choose not to engage before you think & pray.



Ideas to live grace in law relationships: Walk as a spiritual adult (son) by sound doctrine in what the Spirit teaches. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are **the sons of God**." (Rom. 8:14) Let Christ and His life, by the Holy Spirit, lead you. Avoid arguing or allowing anger to control. "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:11) Take a break until you can think and respond in wisdom and love. Emotions will often diminish when yielding and thinking on things above. Then, ask the other person questions to gain insight into them and the problem, or make suggestions to resolve issues. Ideally, postpone discussions until you're both calm and willing to prayerfully think and prefer one another. Acknowledge you both have feelings, but allow the Spirit to lead, searching the Scriptures together to enable a gracious response, even when emotions are high.



Since the Garden of Eden, it is human nature to desire to be our own god. Satan beguiled Adam and Eve with a prize that seemed too good to pass up: *"For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."* (Gen. 3:5) They disobeyed God, the very one who had graciously (freely) given them all things (even dominion over all the earth), to lust after more and even be a god.

Man resists God as his authority and judge. **HE** desires to do what **HE** thinks is right: *"All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits."* (Prov. 16:2) Man's tendency is to desire this 'god role,' just as Adam did. *"In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes."* (Judges 17:6)

Further, man tends to put God's Word aside to make **his own** truths or perceptions. Often it is rebelling against God & His institutions of marriage, family, and government i.e. man-made religion, sex outside of marriage: adultery/homosexuality, disobedient/unruly to parents/laws, haters of God, etc.

There are many ways man takes this role of God, such as putting himself/others under his own law, truth, or standards. When a mistake is made, there is a penalty, like self-condemnation or criticism of others: 'I'm such a failure.' 'How could you believe that?' or 'I'll never do anything with you again.'

Man's way is to exalt himself, excuse his own sin, and accuse God or others harshly. Yet for now, God is longsuffering, but a day is coming: *"But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds."* (Rom. 2:5-6) God's righteousness demands this judgment.

To Do: Paul provides wise counsel: *"Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand."* (Rom. 14:4) When we judge ourselves or others toughly, tell someone what to do, or exalt ourselves, stop and pray to ask a question: 'Am I God?'

The Formation of A Supportive Grace Resource

A testimony by Sharon McEntee

I have been blessed with some very good teachers. I now know the importance of rightly dividing the Scriptures and use only the King James version of the Bible. Rightly dividing means to realize God's instructions changed over time. He wrote particular ones to Israel, and another to us today (Romans thru Philemon). *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* (II Tim. 2:15)

I moved to Tennessee from Florida several years ago so that I could be close to my daughter and my grandchildren. I did some research and was very fortunate to find an already established Bible study in Franklin, Tennessee, led by a rightly dividing teacher. After a while, I began to notice on Facebook that there were many others who were searching for Bible studies, Churches, and conferences in their areas. I understood their frustration. When you first learn this truth you feel all alone in your new found knowledge.

So, I did more research to see if there were any groups out there who are being taught sound doctrine. Thus began **Mid Acts Pauline Bible Conferences and Functions**. This group connects like-minded people to grace conferences, Churches, home studies, retreats, and family camps, worldwide. It is God's intent that each and every member of the Body of Christ be edified and built up in sound doctrine. And I'm praying in some small way this Facebook group can connect and encourage others.

I am so thankful that God has allowed me to be used to bring groups together who share in this glorious Truth. *Philippians 2:13 "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."* I can be contacted through Facebook Messenger or by email mcscha102@hotmail.com

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Stamp

To:

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...” (Romans 3:24)

A Testimony Christ the Word: The Power to Live By Carol Fisher

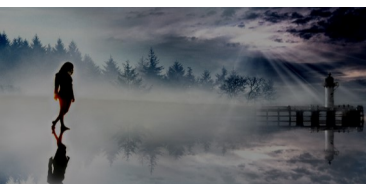


One of the things the Lord taught me as a young Christian was to take God’s words for a fact and realize I could never do what the Bible said I should. So, in my mind, I would step out of the way and let Him do in me what seemed impossible. *“And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.” (Romans 4:21)*

My feelings and circumstances didn’t matter; I just let Him do it. This was me learning to walk like a child, with God holding my hand: *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” (Philippians 2:13)*

Many years and experiences with the Lord have passed. Since then, I learned about rightly dividing the Word: *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Timothy 2:15)* I learned the King James Bible is God’s inspired and preserved Truth and that God has put me in His Son. *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)*

Today, 65 years after I first trusted His payment for my sins, I find myself back where I started. I have been asking God to let His life live in me. Isn’t that the way it should be? To my surprise, I found I was not looking at it correctly. It finally made sense. I was asking Him to do something He had already done. God said His life was already in me: *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)*



All I had to do was count it like the fact that it was, and act like it. When I prayed, ‘God give me love for my neighbor,’ He responded with, ‘I already have, just do it.’ I prayed, ‘Lord, let your life live through me.’ And He said, “I already am, just live it.”

So this is the difference between a child and a son. The child says, ‘Hold my hand and I will do whatever is your will.’ The adult son says, ‘Lord, you have already given me all I need. I will trust you and do whatever you say.’ In other words, a spiritual adult son considers Paul’s instructions and yields, led by the Spirit. (Rom. 8:14) He obeys what the Word teaches him, walking by faith through the details of life. (Rom. 6:16) He confidently trusts: *“And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.” (Rom. 4:21)*

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