

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** How God Handles Hypocrites

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Romans 2:1-16

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #2047

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) God doesn't look on the exterior of people; He looks on the heart.
  - i) God sees through all of those things with which we adorn ourselves and decorate ourselves.
- b) Romans 1 shows us how God handles the heathen.
- c) In Romans 2, we see how God handles the hypocrite.
  - i) The Apostle Paul, anointed by the Holy Spirit, knew that there were certain religious people who were indignant at the sins of others but indulgent about their own sins.
- d) The devil had rather send people to Hell from a church pew than from the gutter.
- e) Romans 2:1-3
  - i) Romans 1:32
    - (1) In comparing this passage of Scripture and Romans 2:1, God is telling us not to talk about other people, but that it's time right now to examine ourselves.
    - (2) Even those who are saved may be guilty of some hypocrisy.
- f) We tend to measure ourselves by other people, but God measures us by that perfect standard, Himself.
- g) The theme in Romans 2 is judgment.
  - i) Romans 2:1-3
  - ii) Romans 2:5
  - iii) Romans 2:16
  - iv) These passages are referring to the hypocrite's judgment.
    - (1) They are talking about the judgment of those who judge others without ever having met the Lord themselves.
- h) The message today will share the basis of the hypocrite's judgment.

2) THE HYPOCRITE'S JUDGMENT IS ACCORDING TO TRUTH (ROMANS 2:2)

- a) Romans 2:2
  - i) The hypocrite's judgment will be according to truth; therefore, there will be no disguise.
    - (1) The word "hypocrite" means "actor."
    - (2) In Jesus' day, the actors would put on disguises.
      - (a) If they were supposed to be happy, then they would put on a mask of a happy face rather than merely acting happy.
      - (b) If they were supposed to be sad, then they would put on a mask of a sad face rather than merely acting sad.
  - ii) In Scripture, Jesus said that there are some in the religious world who are hypocrites.
    - (1) They are actors wearing masks.
  - iii) God is going to pull off the mask, and there will be no disguise.
  - iv) Not profession, not pretension, not performance, but truth is the standard.

- b) We cannot fool God.
- c) In today's world, we have forgotten truth.
  - i) We've sacrificed truth for pragmatism.
    - (1) We don't ask, "Is it true?"
    - (2) We ask, "Does it work?"
  - ii) We've sacrificed truth for style.
    - (1) We don't ask, "Does he or she tell the truth?"
    - (2) We ask, "Do I like him or her?"
  - iii) We're not interested in truth; we're interested in the stock market.
- d) Knowledge is doubling today, but truth never changes.
  - i) Daniel 12:4
  - ii) 2 Timothy 3:7
- e) God's standard is truth.
  - i) God has written the Bible.
    - (1) It is called the Word of Truth.
  - ii) God has given His Spirit.
    - (1) He is called the Spirit of Truth.
  - iii) God is building His church.
    - (1) The church is called the pillar and the ground of truth.
      - (a) 1 Timothy 3:15
  - iv) God sent His Son.
    - (1) His Son is the truth.
  - v) 3 John 4
- f) Truth is to our spirit what food is to our body, what light is to our eyes, and what melody is to our ears.
- g) The hypocrite doesn't understand that God is going to judge according to the truth, so he has three fatal flaws in his thinking.
  - i) He thinks that outward appearance is all that matters.
    - (1) He thinks that if he just simply appears righteous, then he will be righteous.
    - (2) Matthew 23:25-28
      - (a) The hypocrite thinks that all God sees is how he dresses on Sunday morning, how he sings, how he greets people, and how he behaves.
    - (3) Romans 2:21-22
      - (a) We think that we have not committed any of the sins listed in these verses.
        - (i) Matthew 5:28
        - (ii) I John 3:15
      - (b) We think that it's just the outward part that matters, but the Bible says that there's no excuse and no escape.
    - (4) A hypocrite is a respectable sinner, but he is still a sinner.
      - (a) He will be judged according to truth, and his outward appearance will not make any difference.
  - ii) He thinks that if he's not having trouble, then he's right with God.

- (1) Romans 2:3-4
- (2) The blessings of God do not mean that a person is right with God.
  - (a) God gives us blessings to bring us to Him.
    - (i) It doesn't mean that we don't need repentance.
    - (ii) Romans 2:4
- (3) The absence of problems does not mean that we don't need repentance.
  - (a) The goodness of God only makes our judgment more severe if we deny His goodness.
  - (b) God's goodness is not an invitation to sin more.
    - (i) The greater the blessings, if those blessings are refused, then the greater the judgment when the judgment comes.
- (4) Sodom and Gomorrah were at an economic all-time high when the fire and brimstone fell.
  - (a) Ezekiel 16:49
  - (b) There was so much prosperity that the people didn't even have to work.
    - (i) That's when the fire fell because the goodness of God did not lead them to repentance.
- (5) Luke 13:1-5
  - (a) In this passage, the Lord Jesus is talking about a calamity that had occurred in Galilee when a tower fell on people who were walking down a street.
  - (b) We should never get the idea that if someone has trouble, it's because God has judged them; or if someone doesn't have trouble, it's because God is not going to judge them.
- (6) A hypocrite thinks that the absence of problems is all that matters.
  - iii) He thinks that delayed judgment means no judgment.
    - (1) Romans 2:5
      - (a) When God blesses a nation or an individual and that nation or individual hardens his heart against God, then that nation or person is just putting wrath in the bank; treasuring up wrath.
      - (b) One day, the hypocrite's judgment is going to come, and he will have to give account for what he did with all of God's blessings.
    - (2) God does not judge right away because He waits for all of the sin to ripen.
      - (a) When a person sins against God, the sin doesn't just end there.
        - (i) It goes on and on, and the ripples touch the shores of eternity.
      - (b) We do not get away with our sins.
    - (3) Romans 2:3
      - (a) We will not escape the judgment of God.

### 3) THE HYPOCRITE'S JUDGMENT IS ACCORDING TO DEEDS (ROMANS 2:6)

- a) Not only will it be without disguise, but the hypocrite's judgment will also be without distinction.
- b) Romans 2:6
  - i) We are not saved by works, but we will be judged by works.
- c) Somehow, we get the idea that certain people have a special distinction, but they do not.
  - i) Romans 2:11
    - (1) There is no respect of persons with God.
  - ii) The Apostle Paul shows in Romans 3 that the entire world is guilty before God.
    - (1) It matters not whether a person is a Jew or a Gentile.
    - (2) It's not a matter of race or place or gender; it's a matter of God's grace.
- d) Romans 3:23
- e) Many people think that God will grade on the curve.
  - i) They don't think that they're as bad as other people.
  - ii) The religious people in Romans 2 measured themselves by the pagans in Romans 1.
  - iii) But God doesn't grade on the curve.
- f) James 2:10
  - i) God demands absolute perfection, and none of us in ourselves can provide it.
    - (1) This is why we need the Gospel.
    - (2) This is why we need the righteousness of God that comes by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- g) The hypocrite is going to be judged by his actions.
  - i) Romans 2:6
    - (1) Whatever he does is going to judge him.
    - (2) "According to his deeds" means "according to his sins."
      - (a) This includes sins of commission, sins of omission, sins of the flesh, and sins of the spirit.
  - ii) The most respectable church goer, without the second birth, is just as lost as the worst criminal on Earth.
    - (1) John 3:3
- h) The hypocrite is going to be judged by his attitude.
  - i) Romans 2:7-9
    - (1) This passage is speaking of those who go to church seeking God and those who go to church wanting to be contentious.
  - ii) There are some who are seekers and some who are scorers.
  - iii) Are you looking for God, or are you looking for some loophole?
  - iv) Are you looking for something to criticize?
  - v) If you're looking for God, He is knocking at your heart's door.
- i) The hypocrite is going to be judged by his advantages.
  - i) Romans 2:9-11
    - (1) It was to the Jew first because he had the greater advantage.

- (a) Romans 3:1-2
    - (b) They had the Word of God, the Old Testament.
  - ii) Luke 12:48
  - iii) God holds us responsible for attending church services.
    - (1) God will judge us because of our advantage.
      - (a) There are millions of people who sit in darkness who have never even heard the name of Jesus.
      - (2) God knows what we've heard.
      - (3) How sad it would be to go to Hell from the jungle, but how much sadder it would be to go to Hell from an air-conditioned, upholstered church.
  - iv) Matthew 7:22-23
    - (1) They didn't get saved and lose it, they never had it.
    - (2) They went through the form of religion, but they were never saved.
- 4) THE HYPOCRITE'S JUDGMENT IS ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL (ROMANS 2:12-16)
  - a) 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
    - i) The Gospel is that Christ died for our sins, He was buried, and He was raised again on the third day according to the Scriptures.
    - ii) If this Gospel doesn't save you, then it will judge you because it's the Gospel of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
  - b) It is the Lord Jesus who is the judge.
    - i) John 5:22
    - ii) The same Jesus who wants to be your Savior will one day be your judge if you do not allow Him to be your Savior.
  - c) You are going to meet Jesus Christ.
    - i) If you do not meet Jesus Christ in salvation, then you will meet Him in judgment.
    - ii) If the Gospel does not save you, then the Gospel will condemn you.
  - d) No one can hide from God.
    - i) Acts 17:31
      - (1) The resurrection of Jesus Christ that is meant to save you is the very resurrection that will condemn you if you do not receive the Lord Jesus in salvation.
        - (a) The hypocrite picks death from the tree of life.
  - e) The Gospel is a savor of life unto life or death unto death.
    - i) It is not that the hypocrite could not be saved, but that he would not be saved.
  - f) God will one day reveal the secrets of the hypocrite.
    - i) Romans 2:16
      - (1) This verse speaks of secrets that have been repressed; sins that we have forgotten about and have put away.
    - ii) God will one day reveal our hearts.

- iii) The Bible says that God is keeping books containing every idle word, every thought and every deed.
  - (1) The judgment of the hypocrite will be, for many, worse than the judgment of the heathen.
    - (a) Luke 12:48

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) There are many today who are not hypocrites, but they're not saved because they have become disillusioned by someone else who claims to be a Christian.
  - i) Put your eyes on Jesus instead.
- b) There are many people who refuse to go to church because of hypocrites in the church.
  - i) There are also some wonderful people in the church who love Jesus.
  - ii) If you let a hypocrite keep you from Jesus, then you will spend all eternity with every one of them in Hell.
- c) Give your heart to Jesus today.
  - i) Don't let any hypocrite keep you out of Heaven.
- d) Pray to Him now and ask Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16