**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How God Handles Hypocrites |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Romans 2:1-16 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2047 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
	1. God doesn’t look on the exterior of people; He looks on the heart.
		1. God sees through all of those things with which we adorn ourselves and decorate ourselves.
	2. Romans 1 shows us how God handles the heathen.
	3. In Romans 2, we see how God handles the hypocrite.
		1. 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.
	4. The devil had rather send people to Hell from a church pew than from the gutter.
	5. Romans 2:1-3
		1. 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.
	6. We tend to measure ourselves by other people, but God measures us by that perfect standard, Himself.
	7. The theme in Romans 2 is judgment.
		1. Romans 2:1-3
		2. Romans 2:5
		3. Romans 2:16
		4. 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.
	8. The message today will share the basis of the hypocrite’s judgment.
2. the hypocrite’s judgment is according to truth (romans 2:2)
	1. Romans 2:2
		1. 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.
				1. If they were supposed to be happy, then they would put on a mask of a happy face rather than merely acting happy.
				2. It they were supposed to be sad, then they would put on a mask of a sad face rather than merely acting sad.
		2. In Scripture, Jesus said that there are some in the religious world who are hypocrites.
			1. They are actors wearing masks.
		3. God is going to pull off the mask, and there will be no disguise.
		4. Not profession, not pretension, not performance, but truth is the standard.
	2. We cannot fool God.
	3. In today’s world, we have forgotten truth.
		1. We’ve sacrificed truth for pragmatism.
			1. We don’t ask, “Is it true?”
			2. We ask, “Does it work?”
		2. 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?”
		3. We’re not interested in truth; we’re interested in the stock market.
	4. Knowledge is doubling today, but truth never changes.
		1. Daniel 12:4
		2. 2 Timothy 3:7
	5. God’s standard is truth.
		1. God has written the Bible.
			1. It is called the Word of Truth.
		2. God has given His Spirit.
			1. He is called the Spirit of Truth.
		3. God is building His church.
			1. The church is called the pillar and the ground of truth.
				1. 1 Timothy 3:15
		4. God sent His Son.
			1. His Son is the truth.
		5. 3 John 4
	6. Truth is to our spirit what food is to our body, what light is to our eyes, and what melody is to our ears.
	7. The hypocrite doesn’t understand that God is going to judge according to the truth, so he has three fatal flaws in his thinking.
		1. 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
				1. 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
				1. We think that we have not committed any of the sins listed in these verses.

Matthew 5:28

I John 3:15

* + - * 1. We think that it’s just the outward part that matters, but the Bible says that there’s no excuse and no escape.
			1. A hypocrite is a respectable sinner, but he is still a sinner.
				1. He will be judged according to truth, and his outward appearance will not make any difference.
		1. 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.
				1. God gives us blessings to bring us to Him.

It doesn’t mean that we don’t need repentance.

Romans 2:4

* + - 1. The absence of problems does not mean that we don’t need repentance.
				1. The goodness of God only makes our judgment more severe if we deny His goodness.
				2. God’s goodness is not an invitation to sin more.

The greater the blessings, if those blessings are refused, then the greater the judgment when the judgment comes.

* + - 1. Sodom and Gomorrah were at an economic all-time high when the fire and brimstone fell.
				1. Ezekiel 16:49
				2. There was so much prosperity that the people didn’t even have to work.

That’s when the fire fell because the goodness of God did not lead them to repentance.

* + - 1. Luke 13:1-5
				1. 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.
				2. 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.
			2. A hypocrite thinks that the absence of problems is all that matters.
		1. He thinks that delayed judgment means no judgment.
			1. Romans 2:5
				1. 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.
				2. 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.
				1. When a person sins against God, the sin doesn’t just end there.

It goes on and on, and the ripples touch the shores of eternity.

* + - * 1. We do not get away with our sins.
			1. Romans 2:3
				1. We will not escape the judgment of God.
1. the hypocrite’s judgment is according to deeds (romans 2:6)
	1. Not only will it be without disguise, but the hypocrite’s judgment will also be without distinction.
	2. Romans 2:6
		1. We are not saved by works, but we will be judged by works.
	3. Somehow, we get the idea that certain people have a special distinction, but they do not.
		1. Romans 2:11
			1. There is no respect of persons with God.
		2. 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.
	4. Romans 3:23
	5. Many people think that God will grade on the curve.
		1. They don’t think that they’re as bad as other people.
		2. The religious people in Romans 2 measured themselves by the pagans in Romans 1.
		3. But God doesn’t grade on the curve.
	6. James 2:10
		1. 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.
	7. The hypocrite is going to be judged by his actions.
		1. Romans 2:6
			1. Whatever he does is going to judge him.
			2. “According to his deeds” means “according to his sins.”
				1. This includes sins of commission, sins of omission, sins of the flesh, and sins of the spirit.
		2. The most respectable church goer, without the second birth, is just as lost as the worst criminal on Earth.
			1. John 3:3
	8. The hypocrite is going to be judged by his attitude.
		1. 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.
		2. There are some who are seekers and some who are scorners.
		3. Are you looking for God, or are you looking for some loophole?
		4. Are you looking for something to criticize?
		5. If you’re looking for God, He is knocking at your heart’s door.
	9. The hypocrite is going to be judged by his advantages.
		1. Romans 2:9-11
			1. It was to the Jew first because he had the greater advantage.
				1. Romans 3:1-2
				2. They had the Word of God, the Old Testament.
		2. Luke 12:48
		3. God holds us responsible for attending church services.
			1. God will judge us because of our advantage.
				1. 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.
		4. 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.
2. the hypocrite’s judgment is according to the gospel (romans 2:12-16)
	1. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
		1. 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.
		2. If this Gospel doesn’t save you, then it will judge you because it’s the Gospel of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
	2. It is the Lord Jesus who is the judge.
		1. John 5:22
		2. 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.
	3. You are going to meet Jesus Christ.
		1. If you do not meet Jesus Christ in salvation, then you will meet Him in judgment.
		2. If the Gospel does not save you, then the Gospel will condemn you.
	4. No one can hide from God.
		1. 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.
				1. The hypocrite picks death from the tree of life.
	5. The Gospel is a savor of life unto life or death unto death.
		1. It is not that the hypocrite could not be saved, but that he would not be saved.
	6. God will one day reveal the secrets of the hypocrite.
		1. Romans 2:16
			1. This verse speaks of secrets that have been repressed; sins that we have forgotten about and have put away.
		2. God will one day reveal our hearts.
		3. 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.
				1. Luke 12:48
3. CONCLUSION
	1. 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.
		1. Put your eyes on Jesus instead.
	2. There are many people who refuse to go to church because of hypocrites in the church.
		1. There are also some wonderful people in the church who love Jesus.
		2. If you let a hypocrite keep you from Jesus, then you will spend all eternity with every one of them in Hell.
	3. Give your heart to Jesus today.
		1. Don’t let any hypocrite keep you out of Heaven.
	4. Pray to Him now and ask Him to come into your life.
	5. 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.
		1. Romans 3:23
		2. Romans 10:9-10
		3. Romans 10:13
		4. Acts 16:31
		5. John 3:16