

The Kindness of God
A Study of the Book of Romans
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Key Truth: God's kindness does not cancel his righteous judgment but postpones it by his grace to bring the sinner to repentance.

In chapter 2, Paul moves into what commentators call a "diatribe" where he works through an imaginary conversation with a hypothetical individual ("O man" – vv. 1 & 3) in order to describe sins that are common to all people. Paul describes areas where sinful man is condemned. But because of the way he frames his teaching, where the subject of criticism is a hypothetical individual, we can all put ourselves in his place and use this section as a warning to look for areas where we've also fallen short, to scrutinize our own hearts, actions, words, and motives. This is not for the sake of ultimate condemnation, but for to turn our hearts always back to the God who is kind, forbearing, and patient (v. 4).

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 2:1-5** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled "**The Kindness of God.**"

DIG IN

1. The Condemnation of Man (Romans 2:1-5)

Who is Paul talking to and about when he says, "O man..." (vv. 1 & 3)? Why is this important?

According to verse 1, what is Paul criticizing? Is judging wrong? Why or why not? If judging itself is not wrong, what is?

In what ways does sinful man deserve God's righteous judgment (vv. 2-3)?

In what ways does sinful man tend to presume on the riches of God's kindness, forbearance, and patience (v. 4)?

In what ways does sinful man display a hard and impenitent heart (v. 5)? Is it possible for Christians to exhibit this as well? Why or why not?

2. The Kindness of God (Romans 2:4)

What are some examples of the riches of God's kindness? How has that been expressed to you?

In what ways does God's kindness save us (see Romans 3:24-25)?

What is the purpose of God's kindness? Why is that important in the lives of both the unsaved and the saved?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?