



SMALL GROUP LESSON
WHEN WE JUDGES MEET THE JUDGE
ROMANS 2:1-11
NOVEMBER 6, 2016

In the days of the Roman Empire, there was a goddess known as “Justitia” or Lady Justice. Even today, she is sometimes portrayed when referring to the courts or to our nation’s system of justice. Take a few moments to examine her picture on the left hand side of this week’s lesson. Why is she blindfolded? What is she holding in her left and right hands? What do these things have to do with the idea of justice? After you have thought about this for a moment or two, it’s time to dig into the questions listed below. As always our pastor’s sermon is available on line at <http://www.bedfordpresbyva.org/sermons/weekly-sermons-text.html>.

1. Is justice always well served when we human beings are in charge of administering it? Is it always applied fairly and impartially? Are there ever occasions when those passing judgment on others are guilty of the same or similar offences? Do we ever find ourselves considering some offences to be more heinous than others? After you have considered these questions, take a look at what Paul had to say on this subject in Romans 2:1 and what Jesus had to say about judging others in Matthew 7:1-2 and John 8:1-11.
2. Throughout the pages of the Bible, God is described as a judge. For example, take a look at Psalm 33:13-15 and Psalm 50:1-6. These and other passages of Scripture declare that the Lord is aware of everything that’s going on down here on earth. Do His judgments, with regards to human conduct, genuinely reflect who we are and what we have or have not done? In other words, is God a just judge? Paul in Romans 2:2-11 and our pastor in his sermon lists three reasons for the trustworthiness of God’s judgments. The first letter of the key words and related passages of Scripture are provided below to help you discover the answer to this question:
 - A. God’s judgment of human behavior always reflects the T_____ about who we are and what we have done (Romans 2:2-3).
 - B. God withholds judgment for the sake of extending M_____ (Romans 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9, and John 3:17).
 - C. God does not play F_____ (Romans 2:9-11, Acts 10:34-35).
3. In Romans 2:5-8, Paul seems to be saying that God will grant eternal life to those who have done what is good and that those who have perpetrated evil will become the objects of His wrath. Is that what He is saying or is there something else going on here? In fact, is there anyone who can claim absolute goodness without any hint of the presence of evil in their lives? If not, where can we turn? We are all condemned. Is there a clue in the second half of verse 4 in Romans chapter two? And how about the story of the rich young ruler and how Jesus responded to the disciples’ question about who can be saved (Matthew 19:26)?

BEDFORD PRESBYTERIAN SMALL GROUP CONTACT LIST

Listed below are the four small groups currently meeting with their leader’s names and contact information and meeting day. Please contact group leaders for time and location. You are welcome to join the group of your choice!

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