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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

We can endure life's wrongs,
knowing that God will make all
things right

POEM FOR THE WEEK:

Life can be lived with joy and song
Amid its heartache and its pain,
For one day God will right each
wrong With peace and justice He will
reign.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

*He is the Rock, His work is perfect;
For all His ways are justice, A God
of truth and without injustice; Right-
eous and upright is He.*

(Deut 32:4 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", May 7, 2002)

**Series: Justice in the
New Testament**

**UNIT: Paul Teaches about
New Life in Christ**

NEXT WEEK

**Sharing with Those
in Need
(2 Cor 8:7-15)**

God's Justice Romans 2:1-12

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches that God's judgment is always according to truth and results in **God's Justice**. The **study's aim** is to fit in with God's plan as well as we can as He enables us. The **study's application** is to live daily aware of God's justice and our place in His plan.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

The beginning chapters of Romans do not offer sinners any encouragement that they can work their way back to God and earn salvation. Paul spoke of various categories of humanity to prove this. Romans 1:18 talks about the heathen, or the wicked, who have little regard for God and His law. There is no hope for them to make it if they persist in this. Paul then considered the religious Jews (cf. 2:17). Even for them there is no hope of salvation, despite all the advantages they possess. Our text is embedded in a section dealing with moral people, those who have a semblance of goodness. There is no hope apart from grace for them, either. The "good" man falls short for two reasons. First, he falls short because of his hypocrisy (Rom. 2:1-3). He cannot keep the standards by which he judges others. Second, he falls short because of his impenitence (vss. 4-11). He will not turn to God in faith. He thinks he can make it to heaven his own way. But God's justice is firm. We see that God has "no respect of persons," which simply means that God applies His perfect justice to every person, regardless of background or position. There is no possible way of procuring salvation or favor with God based on some human characteristic. Paul specifically mentioned the two broad ethnic categories common in his day—Jews and Gentiles. No special or intrinsic glory, honor, or peace is attributed to anyone merely because of the group or background he comes from. How then can a person be saved? The text mentions that "every man that worketh good" will receive glory, honor, and peace. This is not implying that someone can be saved by good works. Paul labored to show that this is not possible. The good works of men can never satisfy God's holy justice; they always fall short (Rom. 3:23). This statement refers back to the contrast of Romans 2:7-8, the contrast between obedient faith and disobedience. Romans 2:7 speaks about the element of faith, which seeks glory, honor, and eternal salvation. Verses 8 and 9 speak about the element of unholy disobedience, which brings God's just wrath. So faith and disobedience are contrasted. Because of God's justice, we are pointed in only one direction for salvation—to faith in God's atoning work in Christ. There is no hope for the sinner in any other thing. Neither religion nor morality can get us to heaven. Those who trust in such things for salvation display a tragic misunderstanding of God's justice. We must look beyond human works and efforts to a salvation granted from above, received only through faith in Christ. There is nothing wrong with good morals, and there is nothing wrong with the practice of religion, unless it misleads us about how we as sinners can escape God's condemnation. We must submit to God and His means of salvation. There is no way around God's justice through our own efforts. We must trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Justice According to Truth (Rom 2:1-4)

Truth because it is beyond excuses (1)

Beyond excuses because God makes what is right plain (Rom 1:18-19)

Beyond excuses because God judges to fit the situation (Matt 7:1-2)

Beyond excuses because God's judgments are based on what is man's own words and deeds (Luke 19:22-24)

Beyond excuses because no one is without sin (John 8:3-7)

Truth because it is against those who practice evil (2-3)

Against evil because of stubbornness and unrepentant hearts (Rom 2:5-8)

Against evil because God punishes those who do not know Him and practice evil (2 Thess 1:5-8)

Against evil because sin is against God (Ps 51:4)

Truth because of God's goodness (4)

God is good because He keeps no records of sin for those He has forgiven (Ps 130:3-4)

God is good because He shows His compassion through His gracious justice (Isa 30:18)

God is good because He is patient, waiting on everyone to repent (2 Peter 3:9)

God is good because even while we were sinners, He sent Jesus to pay for our sins (Eph 2:4-7)

Justice that is Impartial (Rom 2:5-12)

Impartial because it is righteous (5)

Righteous because when justice is needed, He does it without fail (Ps 7:11)

Righteous because God is righteous and has total integrity (Ps 7:8)

Righteous because God's judgment is founded on righteousness (Ps 94:14-15)

Righteous because Jesus relied on God's judgment (1 Peter 2:23)

Impartial because it is according to one's deeds (6)

According to deeds because God judges on what the individual does, not others (Ps 62:12)

According to deeds because God examines each one's conduct (Jer 17:10)

According to deeds because that is what Jesus will judge (Matt 16:27)

According to deeds because God judges on motives that can't be hidden (1 Cor 4:5)

According to deeds because judgment is on what was done while in the human body (2 Cor 5:10)

Impartial because it provides eternal life to those who do good (7)

Because God is good to those to whose hope is in Him (Lam 3:25)

Because God has promised to not let good works be in vain (1 Cor 15:58)

Because at the proper time, God will reward those who have not grown weary in doing good (Gal 6:9)

Because doing the will of God will be richly rewarded (Heb 10:35-36)

Impartial because it provides wrath to those who do evil (8-9)

God's wrath because of suppression of truth by wickedness (Rom 1:18)

God's wrath because not knowing God (2 Thess 1:8-9)

God's wrath because the soul belongs to God and those who sin will die (Ezek 18:4)

God's wrath to weed out sin and evil (Matt 13:41)

Impartial because God does not have any favoritism (11)

No favoritism because God is God (Deut 10:17)

No favoritism because God created all (Job 34:19)

No favoritism because God accepts all who fear and obey Him (Acts 10:34-35)

No favoritism because God does not judge by the external (Gal 2:6)

Impartial because no one can be righteously justified by the law (12)

Not justified by the law because it has been weakened by man's sinful nature (Rom 8:3)

Not justified by the law because justification is only through faith in Jesus (Gal 2:16)

Not justified by the law because the righteous will live by faith (Gal 3:11)