

THE ROMAN REVEALING
Theme: The Reign of Righteousness
From the Sermon Notebook of Dr. Doyce H. Nolan

SUBJECT: THE WORLD OF MORALISM

SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 2:1-16

Sermon No. 5

Date: February 18, 2007

Introduction

The moralist of Paul's day were people of sophistication and respectability who condemned the sins of the pagan world while practicing the very same sins themselves.

One of these moralist was a man names Seneca who was the tutor of king Nero. He wrote prolifically on the life of goodness while condemning the pagan world of his day. Down through the centuries Christians have refered to him as "our very own" because of his great writtings. What is not generally known by the Christian world is the fact that he himself practiced the very same sins that he condemned in others. It was he who planned with king Nero the murder of Nero's own mother.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seneca_the_Younger

We are living in a world of moralism in America! People who think of themselves as bettwr then the sinful people around them, and condemn their sins, are in fact, when examined in the light of the word of God, committing the very same sins. The only difference is the respectable people committ their sin under the cloak of morality. But all are under the judgement of almighty God!

We shall observe two facts:

1. The Failure of Man in the World of Moralism.
2. The Sensure of God in the World of Moralism.

I. THE FAILURE OF MAN IN THE WORLD OF MORALISM. (1-4).

The standard of Christian morality is the Christian living in victory and righteousness in a world filled with sin. This is brought about by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the believer.

However, there is a covering of morality which the so-called respectable sinner tries to wear in order to be accepted by God. This is the ultimate failure of man! Man fails in three ways:

1. The Sin of Hypocrisy. (1) Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

Friends, the Bible says that when you judge another person, you are inexcusable because you commit the very same sins that you condemn others.

King David is a prime example. David had committed the sin of adultery with Bersheba. Through this adulterous affair Bersheba became pregnant. David then engineered the death of her husband in order to take her for his wife, and cover his sin! It seemed for a while that David had successfully covered his sin. However, the day came when God sent his prophet Nathan with a story to share with David.

A poor man who had nothing but a cherished little lamb. One day a rich neighbor stole his little lamb to provide a meal for a

stranger who had come by. When David heard the story he was furious. He immediately pronounced judgement on the man by saying, "As the Lord liveth, the man that has done this thing shall surely die." Nathan answered with a soul shattering statement, "Thou art the man!"

My friends, if we have ever condemned anyone for anything, we need to look deep down inside our own heart to see if "we art the man!" The sin of hypocrisy! Paul says the very things you condemn others of, that you are guilty of them yourself! *Notice*

2. The Sin of Impurity. (3). *And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgement of God?*

The moralist feel that because of their respectability they shall escape the judgement of God. Friends, man may escape the judgement of man's law, but it is impossible to escape the judgement of God's law. He has all knowledge, all power to do what he promises he will do. We cannot hide from God. *Next*

3. The Sin of Complacency. (4). *Despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

There is nothing worse than complacent moralism. Mr. Webster says of complacency, "self-satisfied.. contented." A preacher can preach his heart out about the love and goodness of God and the complacent moralist will sit there unmoved, completely contented with their goodness. *The failure of man in the world of moralism..*

II. THE SENSURE OF GOD IN THE WORLD OF

MORALISM (2). But we are sure that the judgement of God is according to truth against them which committ such things.

Try as he might, there is no escape for the moralist from the judgement of God! There is no where to run.

1. God's Judgement is According to Revelation. Man will pass judgement on others through rumors he hears from family and friends. He may judge other by something that is wrong. But this is not the way it is with God. The word "truth" can be translated "reality". God's judgement is never based upon hearsay evidence, but always on truth, reality and revelation according to His word. God's judgement is always without partiality! *Notice also..*

2. God's Judgement is According to Righteousness. God is a righteous God and just in His dealing with man! God always judges man's sins by man's guilt and man's deeds.

1) The Inexcusable Guilt of Man. (5). But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasureth up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God. The guilt of the moralist is accumulating little by little, day by day all through life, but God is going to deal with them all at once with a mighty stroke of punishment!

As you look back over your life you can think of many good deeds that you have accomplished for your fellowman. Question: Have you sinned at least once a day since you reached the age of accountability? If your answer is yes, multiply 365 days a year by the number of years old you are. Lets use the number 55, that comes to 20,075 sins all treasured up against the judgement of

Almighty God! This judgement of God will be unleashed upon you all at once! *Without Jesus Christ as Savior you stand inexcusable this day!*

2. The Inescapable Deeds of Man. (6-7). Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and impartiality, eternal life. Those who have experienced a genuine example of salvation and demonstrated this in well doing will move from this earthly life of abundance to that eternal life of abundance. *But notice the warning in verse 8..*

But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, upon every man that doeth evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek. For the person who continually rejects Jesus Christ as Savior and continues to live in sin, God's wrath, tribulation and anguish will be your experience throughout eternity. It doesn't matter who you are, God is no respecter of persons or personal goodness and deeds! God is a just God and treats all men equal!

Conclusion

There is only one way of salvation. That is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ for the sins of the world. Human attempts at being morally good results in failure! It doesn't matter how good you are, how respectable you are, without God's plan of redemption in your life you are going to perish in your sins!

Salvation is the Way of the Cross, the Way of Calvary, the Way of Christ's Blood! There is no other way!

