

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

July 21, 2014

Looking into Your Heart

ROMANS 2:1-3 NKJV – (1) Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. (2) But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. (3) And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?

At times we can find ourselves feeling justifiably angry about someone's sin, but we must be very careful! Why? First, we must process our neighbor's sin with a spirit of humility. Often the sins we notice most clearly in others are the sins that have taken root in us. If we would take a closer look into our own hearts, we will probably find that we are committing the same sin in a more socially acceptable form. For example, a person that gossips may be very critical of others who gossip about him or her.

When Paul's letter was written in the Roman church, there is no doubt that many heads nodded as he condemned idol worshippers, homosexual practices, and violent people. But what surprise his listeners must have felt when he turned on them and said, in effect, "You are just as bad, and you have no excuse!" Paul used that moment to stress that all have sinned and that only Christ is able to bring salvation from sin's consequences.

God's punishment for sin isn't always immediate however his eventual judgment is always certain. We don't know exactly when it will happen, but we know that no one escapes that final encounter with the Creator. Simply put, before we look down on someone else, "look into your own heart."

SCRIPTURE READING: LUKE 6:37

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "You want to remember that while you're judging the book, the book is also judging you."