THINK ON THESE THINGS…..

Reading: Reading: Romans 2:1- 4

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. [2] Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. [3] So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? [4] Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

Reflection:

Our text today contains Paul's rather harsh reprimand of the Roman Christians. It seems that they were quick to judge people for actions that they considered to be sinful, but failed to recognise that they were doing the same things.

Romans 1 reveals the particular sin that Paul was confronting was idolatry – the failure to honour and worship God as God. This idolatry manifested itself in all sorts of destructive behaviour. But, it was not people "out there" that Paul was concerned with. It was the people in the Christian community who were saying one thing and doing the exact opposite. Paul challenged the people to show others the same patience, kindness, and generosity that God shown to them.

Paul declared that God will judge everyone by what they have done. This is the same person who is famous for saying that we are saved by grace alone. This may seem like a bit of a contradiction, but in actual fact it gives us a clearer picture of how salvation works. It is God's grace that leads us to life and salvation, but this same grace leads us to live with an attitude of grace, kindness, and love toward others.

The extent to which we are able to show grace is a reflection of the extent to which have received grace. We cannot really speak about being saved until we show our salvation in the way we love our families, our neighbours, friends, and the strangers who cross our path. In living as Jesus did we reflect the glory, honour and peace of God in which there is no favouritism.

It is easy to point fingers and judge others. It is much harder to try to understand them, and to offer forgiveness, grace and love. But, this is exactly what we are called to do.

Breath-Prayer for Today: Lord God, this day would you fill me with grace so that I may share your grace with others.