

## Romans Chapter 2

### ***Introduction:***

In chapter one, Paul paints a portrait of the sinfulness of this world. The Jews would agree with all that had been stated but would never have considered themselves to be under the same condemnation. This same idea is held today by those who consider themselves to be, “good people” or by those who have built their goodness on religious adherence.

In verses 1-16, pay interpretive attention to the three key phrases that will serve as the theme for each section.

**Date: Monday, January 21**

**Scripture: Romans 2:1-4**

**Theme: The kindness of God leads to repentance**

Pay attention to the nature of the diatribe used by Paul. Diatribe is lively discourse with an imagined opponent that is both conversational and argumentative. There is back and forth questioning between the two that reveals the strength of one person’s view and the weaknesses of the other.

- James 2:10: *For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*
  - Understanding this verse is vital to our understanding this passage
- Verses 1-2: *You have no excuse*—your position of self-proclaimed righteousness cannot be defended
  - Even though you may not be guilty of a particular shared sin, you stand guilty of practicing the same sinfulness for which you judge another as worthy of condemnation.
- Verse 3: Read this verse with the Lord’s words in mind: “You who are without sin cast the first stone.”
  - Escape—to flee out of
  - The only way to escape judgment for sin is to flee out of self and into the righteousness of Jesus
- Verse 4: Consider these words

- Lightly—to think little of—take advantage of—think nothing of
- Kindness—gentleness within discipline with the goal of repentance
- Tolerance—giving time to come around—not accommodation of
- Patience—God can but doesn't—His grace response
- The goal of God's activity with us is not judgment but rather repentance leading to justification by faith.
  - Our failure to repent (salvation) moves God's kindness to wrath (His future judgment).
  - God's wrath is on sin. Without salvation, a life has only sin to offer to God.

**Date: Tuesday, January 22**

**Scripture: Romans 2:5-11**

**Theme: God will render to each person according to his deeds**

The basic claim of this section is that a relationship with Jesus transforms us. And if we are transformed, then the evidence presented by our deeds will serve as authentication for the claims we make.

- Our deeds are based on repentance because of a relationship with Jesus which is the basis for our justification before God.
  - Verse 7: The result of this is eternal life
- Those who pursue unrighteousness (rejection of Jesus) will find God's wrath.
  - All they have to offer is sin which is the very thing upon which God's wrath will be poured.
- A relationship with Christ transforms us.
- God is impartial—perfectly impartial
  - We cannot claim positional righteousness
  - We cannot claim nationalistic righteousness
  - We cannot claim religious righteousness
- Consider the implications of this in our society and religious culture today.

**Date: Wednesday, January 23**

**Scripture: Romans 2:12-16**

**Theme: The doers of the Law will be justified**

Once again, keep in mind James 2:10 as you explore this section.

- Three laws referred to:
  - The law of nature—referred to in Romans 1
  - The Law of Moses—the Jews were given the Law by God not as a way to obtain righteousness but to understand their inability to keep the Law
  - The law of Christ—righteousness through faith in Jesus
- Doers of the law are those who have at the foundation of their actions the law of Christ.
  - No matter what law is being followed, it does not have the ability to impart righteousness apart from Jesus.
  - Read this section with the overall theme of the book in mind.
  - We cannot fall into the myths that we can be good enough or religious enough gain eternal life apart from Jesus Christ.

**Date: Thursday, January 24**

**Scripture: Romans 2:17-24**

**Theme: Claims Without Proof**

Paul continues to emphasize the necessity of what a believer claims to be must be authenticated by how they live. He states that even if you are Jewish, you cannot claim righteousness because of your position before God. You are not keeping the Law you claim makes you righteous.

- Verse 17: If you claim these things and assume these roles, your deeds must serve as a validation.
  - The Jews saw themselves as guides, light, correctors, and teachers having access to full knowledge and truth through the Law.

- All of these should have been enough of an advantage to truly claim self-righteousness, but their actions proved otherwise.
- Same warning Jesus gave regarding the Pharisees in Matthew 23:2-3: *“The scribes and the Pharisees have seated themselves in the chair of Moses; <sup>3</sup> therefore all that they tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds; for they say things and do not do them.”*
- There is an inevitable failure of imperfection to keep law.
- Pay attention to the current world application of verse 24.

**Date: Friday, January 25**

**Scripture: Romans 2:25-29**

**Theme: The Outward Without the Inward**

- Consider the reaction given by the Jews when Paul states that an uncircumcised Gentile who keeps the Law is more of a Jew than a Jew who is circumcised who doesn't regard the Law.
  - Keep in mind how the Jews regarded the Gentiles.
- Circumcision had become the supreme guard against Gehenna.
  - It had been given sacramental status.
  - The act gave you a certain position before God
- The lack of obedience negates the value of any spiritual sign
- Outward spiritual actions and signs must be an outgrowth of relational belief and faith.
  - Colossians 2:11: *in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;*
  - Philippians 3:2-3: *Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; <sup>3</sup> for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,*
- Verse 29: The word “praise” is a play on words—translatable also as, “his Jewishness is not from men, but from God.”

This passage has definite relevance given the numbers on most church roles compared to those who are actually invested in faith.