

## 25th September 2016—Home Group Study Notes

### Read Romans 2:1-29

1. It is difficult to work out exactly *who* Paul is addressing as he comes to this chapter. Many think that, as Paul has declared the pagan world ‘without excuse’ (with the Jews looking on approvingly), he is now saying ‘we Jews too are also without excuse’ (v.1). Certainly he comes to that by v.17. Whoever he is referring to in the early verses (it may be very general) what *is the overall point* of this chapter?
2. What is the basis Paul gives in v.1-11 for why none of us are *without excuse* before God?
3. God’s judgement will involve ‘giving to each person according to what they have done’ (v.6). How does that square with the ‘righteous will live by faith’ (1:17)?
4. In what ways does Paul argue in v.12-16 that God’s judgement is always impartial?
5. When we get to v.17 to the end of the chapter we are left in no doubt who Paul is addressing. What are the things he lists that made the Jews feel they were superior to the Gentiles?
6. Paul argues that the covenant privileges of Israel must be matched with their covenant responsibilities (v.21-24). ‘To whom much is given, much is expected.’ In what specific ways is much expected of us given all our privileges in Christ?
7. Re-read v.25-29. Circumcision was the mark of the covenant. It was unthinkable that a Jewish male, duly circumcised, should fail in his salvation. But what counts, says Paul, is *not* the outward sign. Compare Deuteronomy 10:16; Jeremiah 4:4. What do you think is meant by ‘circumcision of the heart?’
8. In what practical ways can we help each other pastorally not to judge people by their outward appearance but rather focus on what God’s Spirit is doing in their lives?

