

Romans Chapter 2

- Chapter 1 dealt with the un-righteousness of the heathen, non-Jews.
- Chapter 2 deals with the self-righteousness of the Jews.
- The general intent is to show that all men are sinners worthy of death.

V: 1-3	The Gentiles
V: 4-11	God's blessings.
V: 12-24	God's law.
V: 25-29	Circumcision.

V: 1 “**Therefore**” because of these things, referring to verse 32 in chapter 1 about not only those who do those things already described, but giving implied approval to the same, or to partaking in the same in a vicarious way.

- Inexcusable: cannot be defended

[Right back to:](#)

Romans 1:20 “... **so that they are without excuse.**”

- These things are too obvious, too plainly seen and understood to be ignored.

“**1Judge:**” (G2919) “krino”, to separate (sheep from goats), to distinguish, to discriminate good and evil. To form or express a judgment or opinion as to any person or thing – more commonly unfavorably. To judge as in to condemn.

- Comparison: “**2... judgment of God...**”

“**2Judgment:**” (G2917) “krima” - describing the final judgment of God which is based on His character, His omniscience and His righteousness, as verse 2 states, God’s judgment is according to truth.

- We may judge someone else’s sins, but so often we’re guilty of the very same thing.
- We watch things on TV or in the movies – taking vicarious pleasure in the violence and corruption on the screen – things that we would never do ourselves – yet taking pleasure in those who do.
- We are just as guilty as those who are doing it because we’ve mentally indulged in the same practices.
- We are not called to judge others, we’re called to love others.

- The moment we begin to judge another's actions we demonstrate the fact that we know what the standard is – we are not ignorant – and to whom much is given much will be required – we will then be judged by that same standard – we are then in-excusable when we do the same things.

Matthew 7:1-5 “¹Judge not, that you be not judged. ²For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. ³And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, let me remove the speck from your eye; and look, a plank is in your own eye? ⁵Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.”

- If we judge others harshly, then that same “harsh” standard will be applied to us by our great judge.
- This is not to be confused with using proper judgment, or discernment in identifying a situation in a Biblical way.
- Judging to identify as opposed to judging to condemn:

Matthew 7:15-16 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles?”

- We should simply remember the following facts:
 1. We are capable of committing all of the sins we could think of.

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”

2. By breaking one commandment, we are guilty of all.

James 2:10 “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

3. When we have committed sins in our heart, it is the same as if we had actually, physically committed that same sin.

Matthew 5:28 “But I say unto you, that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”

- These things should keep us humble and less prone to judging others.

V: 2 God's judgment is true and righteous, God's judgment is holy – un-tainted by self interest or prejudice.

- God's judgment is fortified by the fact that He truly knows all things, including the intent of our heart at the moment of our actions.

Hebrews 4:13 “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

- God knows our thoughts, and the intents of our hearts – He is able to judge in absolute truth.

Psalms 139:1-4 “¹O Lord, You have searched me and known me. ²You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. ³You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴For there is not a word on my tongue, but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.”

- The omniscience of God is something we cannot escape, instead of trying to avoid it or ignore it, we should simply reconcile ourselves to it - which can only be done in truth.

Hebrews 4:12-13 “For the word of God is quick and powerful / alive, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

- [The judgment of God is according to truth.](#)

Revelation 19:1-2 “¹After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, “Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!” ²For true and righteous are His judgments,”

V: 3 This is a warning against hypocrisy. The Jews thought they were auto saved.

[God told Ezekiel to take a look into the house of Israel:](#)

Ezekiel 8:8-12 “⁸Then He said to me, son of man, dig now in the wall: and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door. ⁹And He said unto me, go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. ¹⁰So I went in and saw; and behold every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed upon the wall about. ¹¹And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Ja-az-a-niah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up. ¹²Then said He unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in

the chamber of his imagery? For they say, “The Lord seeth us not the Lord hath forsaken the earth.”

- God allowed Ezekiel to see the inside of the hearts and minds of these men. Then God dealt with it.

Ezekiel 9:4-6 “⁴And the Lord said to him, go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. ⁵And to the others He said in mine hearing, go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity: ⁶Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.”

Hebrews 10:31 “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

- The judgment of God is inescapable – unless we repent and seek forgiveness.

V: 4 Taking the goodness and patience of God the grace of God for granted, not placing the proper value upon it, or appreciating it for what it is; a precious gift. Not recognizing their need for repentance.

1 Peter 1:18-19 “¹⁸Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

Hebrews 2:3 “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him;”

Hebrews 6:4-6 “⁴For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, ⁵and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, ⁶if they shall fall away to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame.”

- Or mistaking the patience of God as either weakness, or worse; approval.
- It is the goodness of God that leads us to repentance.

Ephesians 1:7, 18, 2:7 “⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” - “¹⁸the eyes of your

understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,” “^{2:7}that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

- A person may be lulled into believing that God doesn't care or that He even approves of his sins, because God's judgment isn't immediate.
- By misinterpreting the patience of God as somehow “getting away with it”, a man shows contempt towards the goodness of God, and deceives himself.
- Any delay in judgment is simply a manifestation of His goodness, patience, and forbearance on our behalf – allowing mankind opportunity to repent, to be reconciled.

2 Peter 3:9 God is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

“... *the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance:*”

- While there is a place for fiery preaching about hell, about the consequences of sin - but it's the goodness of God the love of God that draws us to Him.

2 Corinthians 5:14 “For the love of Christ constraineth / compels us;...”

V: 5 “But” - contrast to all of that.

- “after” - In accordance / alignment / consistent with....
- “Hard” heartedness / stubbornness.
- “Impenitent:” without shame or regret.
- “Treasuring up” – storing up greedily, close to the heart.

Galatians 6:7-8 “⁷Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

- David never prayed: “Have justice on me Oh Lord!”

Psalm 25:7 “Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to your mercy remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O Lord.”

- God's righteous judgment will be revealed, it will be manifest in the end:

Revelation 15:3-4 “³They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the saints! ⁴Who shall not fear you, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested.”

V: 6-11 If we took these verses by themselves we might mistakenly conclude that salvation is by good works – that is not the case. The rest of scripture testifies that salvation is by faith, by Grace and not of works.

- It is to be understood that “good works” do not begin until after a person has been born again.

V: 6 Each according to their deeds: for good or for evil.

- The works of men’s hands is generally not good.

Psalm 28:4 “Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavors; give them according to the work of their hands; render to them what they deserve.”

Isaiah 59:18 “According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, fury to His adversaries, recompense to His enemies; the coastlands He will fully repay.”

Jeremiah 25:14 “... I will repay them according to their deeds and according to the works of their own hands.”

Revelation 18:6, 20:12-13, 22:12

Psalm 62:12 “Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy; for You render to each one according to his work.”

- So what is the or a good work?

John 6:28-29 “²⁸Then said they unto Him, what shall we do, that we might work the works of God? ²⁹Jesus answered and said unto them, this is the work (singular) of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.”

V: 7 This is the for the good part – the reward for the good.

- Glory (His glory!) – honor – immortality / eternal life - Heaven.

Galatians 6:9 “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we fain not.”

V: 8-9 “But” - contrast: the reward of the evil, the contentious, the disobedient, the unrighteous.

- Indignation - wrath – tribulation – anguish.
- To the Jew first, because they received the greatest revelation, the scriptures, the favor & miracles, the obvious testimony – then to the Greeks who were blessed as well and their revelation though less direct – revelation none the less.
- The judgment applies to both the Jews and the non-Jews.

V: 10 “But” contrast back to the reward to the good / righteous:

- Glory – honor – peace.
- God’s blessing apply to both just as surely does His judgments.

V: 11 God does not play favorites, He has one standard – Jesus.

- God deals with all men equally – Jews and Greeks.

Galatians 3:28 “For there is neither Jew, nor Greek, there is neither bond or free, there is neither male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Acts 10:34 “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: In truth I perceive that God show no partiality / is not respecter of persons.”

Deuteronomy 10:17 “For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.”

- God’s judgment is without respect of persons, one of the hallmarks of righteousness and true holiness.
- Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

Summary / overview: Ch’s 1, 2, 3.

V: 12-16 Expand on the point that the judgment of God will be according to the measure of light received.

Luke 12:48 “To whom much is given, much will be required.”

V: 12 Sin is sin, the wages of sin is still death – weather knowingly or ignorantly.

- Ignorance of the law is no excuse.
- At this point Paul is speaking to the Jews in the church who knowing the Law will be judged by the Law. They know the standard and that is what will be applied to them each personally.
- None of them, nor us would fare very well in this type of judgement.
- By breaking one commandment, we are guilty of all.

James 2:10 “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”

- Those who sin apart from the Law, will also perish apart from the Law. God has ingrained in every person a basic sense of right and wrong, we don't need a “law” to tell us that, we already know. We can claim not to know, but that would be a lie. Paul will elaborate on this in the next couple of verses.
- We were all given the Law as a method of amplifying that message: The point of the Law wasn't so much to keep people holy as much as it was to point out their un-holiness already and to prompt them to cry out for a savior that could bridge that gap between a Holy God and sinful men.

Galatians 3:24 “Wherefore the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

- Bottom line, sinners are going to get judged by God's righteous judgment, with or without the Law.

V: 13 Obedience, actual real, in your heart, lived out obedience – not just the appearance or it, or the mere understanding.

- For those who love to study God's Word we have to be careful not to assume that the plowing through it, that digging into it, studying it to show ourselves approved of God is somehow that same as actually doing it, we need to keep it straight in our heads.

James 1:22 “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

- Jesus is the only One who has actually done it without a miss, we can't do it without His help, the help of the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

1 Corinthians 10:13 “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

- How do you know if you are obeying the Word?

1 John 3:7 “Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”

- Compare your life, your words, your actions, your very heart to God’s Word, you’ll know quick enough where you stand.

Psalm 139:23-24 “²³Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: ²⁴And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

- One test is are you a joyful Christian, or are you a grump?

Jesus said:

John 13:17 “If you know these things, blessed / oh how happy are you if you do them.”

- So if you’re a grumpy Christian then you’re probably a little off in your walk...

V: 14-15 As was referenced in V: 12 even the “gentiles” have a basic sense of right and wrong, their thoughts or consciences either convict them or excuse them.

- The Gentiles who don’t have the law, are in fact a law unto themselves.
- When it comes down to it there are only two responses to sin: Repentance or rationalization.

V: 16 People try to defend themselves, rationalize their behavior, or lie about it - but God will bring up their thoughts, that moment when you knew you were doing the wrong thing, and did it anyway.

- Jesus is the standard by which all men will be judged - Jesus the only righteous standard.
- As believers our sins were judged on the cross, our “good works” will be judged at the Bema seat of Christ:

1 Corinthians 3:11-15 “¹¹For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay stubble; ¹³Every man’s work shall be made manifest:

for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. ¹⁴If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

- That fire will be the gaze of Jesus, His searching all seeing eyes.

Revelation 1:12-14 "¹²And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; ¹³And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. ¹⁴His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire;"

- The judgment of God will take into account the secrets of men, not just the public sin.

V: 17-23 You could easily forget that at this point he's speaking directly to the Jews.

- Paul is speaking directly to the Jews, but this also applies directly to teachers and to pastors. Head knowledge as opposed to heart knowledge.

Paul would later write:

Romans 15:18 "For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought / accomplished by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed."

V: 17-20 The Jews generally had a confidence (a false confidence) in their salvation simply in the fact that they were Jews, God's chosen people - and Paul was contradicting that. Gentiles do the same thing.

- I was talking to a pastor's kid one day when I asked her about her salvation and her attitudinal response was that her dad was a pastor - same attitude.
- One of the marks of salvation in the life of a true believer is humility, a broken and a contrite spirit He will not despise.

Paul warns about those that do similar things:

2 Timothy 3:5 "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." Avoid them.

V: 21-23 Jesus' most often repeated rebuke to the religious leaders of his day was that they were hypocrites, saying one thing and doing another.

Matthew 23:2-4 "²... The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: ³All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. ⁴For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be

borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers."

- Describing the hypocrisy of teaching men not to steal or commit adultery all the while they're doing the same thing.
- Jesus taught us that if we've lusted after someone in our heart, we've committed adultery, or if we've hated a man, we've committed murder.
- The issue wasn't even if they had actually done these things, but they were issues of the heart.
- The Jews may have said, "I have never stolen" but the prophet Malachi says different:

Malachi 3:8-9 "8Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, In what way have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings. 9You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation."

- The Jews may have said "we've never committed sacrilege or adultery", but the prophet **Hosea** declares that the nation committed both by following after other gods.
- By applying the law only to their actions, the religious leaders felt very self-righteous.
- They didn't realize that the purpose of the Law was to make the whole world guilty before God.

Galatians 3:24 "Wherefore the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

- By claiming righteousness and at the same time breaking the Law they are dishonoring God, just as many who claim to be Christians but engage in un-godly behavior dishonour God.
- Paul re-iterates the point in V: 24

V: 24-26 God is blasphemed because people falsely claim salvation because of circumcision or infant baptism, yet their life witness is contrary to that claim – and the name of God is blasphemed, (Quoting **Isaiah 52:5**) God is cursed or reviled by those who witness the behavior of "Christians" who really aren't very Christ like.

- The result of high talk and low walk.

- The Jews thought that because they were circumcised – they were saved, just as many Christians who were baptized as a child or infant think they are saved through the ritual.
- The world judges our Lord based on those who profess to be His followers.

V: 27-29 The humiliation of a non-believer / Gentile rebuking a Jew / believer who knows or should have known better.

1 Corinthians 5:1 “It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles,…”

- ²⁸Circumcision identified them with God’s covenant, just as the flesh was separated from the man, so the man was to be separated from the world; circumcision was a sign of that agreement with God.
- Baptism represents a life changed, submitted, death, burial, and resurrection to new life.
- In either event, a life lived in the flesh is contrary to the symbolic ritual – ritual doesn’t save us – only a life given to Jesus and lived for Him through a personal relationship.

Speaking of the circumcision:

- **Exodus 6:12** speaks of the circumcision of the lips.
- **Jeremiah 6:10** speaks of the circumcision of the ears.
- **Ezekiel 44** speaks of the circumcision of the heart.

- The issue isn’t genealogy, or circumcision, or baptism – the issue is that of the heart – God looks at the heart.

1 Samuel 16:7 “...for man looks at the outward appearance, but he Lord looks at the heart.”

- ²⁹Being a Jew, or a Hebrew can be taken to mean different things. You can be a Jew in a religious sense but not necessarily be a Jew ethnically. There are many Jewish people who are Jews ethnically, but not religiously. Or you can be a Jew in spirit...

Galatians 3:6-7 “Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. ⁷Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.”

Which as Paul continues is the fulfillment of what God spoke to Abraham:

Galatians 3:8 “And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the Gospel unto Abraham, say, “In thee shall all nations be blessed.”

Ref.Romans.02