

Romans 2

This chapter is directed at those Jews who because they had great privileges as God's old covenant people, especially the Old Testament scriptures, therefore believed that they were God's chosen people already and looked down on the other nations, i.e. Gentiles.

1 Judging others reveals a superior attitude. Condemning the sins of others did not alleviate their own guilt. Those who judge others are generally guilty of the same sins.

2 God is the only One competent to judge. His judgment is according to absolute truth and justice.

3 Those Jews had a sense of false security. God's judgment would not apply to them. Wrong! God's judgment is inescapable.

4 Instead of honestly facing up to the fact of their own sins and failures, repenting of them and seeking salvation, they were complacent, thus showing contempt for God's continuing willingness to show mercy.

5 They stubbornly resisted, so God's wrath toward them was building up, like behind a dam wall. A day is coming when the dam will break upon their heads.

6 God will judge every individual on his own record.

7, 8 There are two broad categories

Those who seek to do right in God's eyes. Those who are right with God. We see later how this comes about.

Those who live selfish godless lives.

There are two destinies. Eternal life, or wrath and anger.

9-11 It will be the same for all men, Jew and Gentile. God will not favour a person because he was born a Jew.

12 All will be judged according to the knowledge and privilege they enjoyed. The Jew because he had God's law will be judged accordingly. The Gentile who did not have God's law will not be judged by that standard.

13 It is not those who know the law who are right before God, but those who actually obey the law.

14, 15 The ignorant Gentile will be judged according to his own conscience.

16 Nothing will be hidden or ignored come Judgment Day. The good news of the gospel includes Judgment.

17-20 Now Paul addresses a typical Jew at that time, who relied upon his being part of that nation to make him right with God. His pride and arrogance are described through a series of descriptive statements.

21-23 Now Paul challenges all such with a series of pointed questions. Do they keep the law or break the law?

24 The general reputation among the pagan Gentiles at that time was not good. Thus they misrepresented God.

25-27 Circumcision was the sign that one was a Jew. But this was not sufficient to mark you as one of God's people. Consistent obedience to God's law is required. Indeed this is much more important than the sign of circumcision.

28, 29 A real Jew, that is a man right with God, is one whose heart is circumcised. Not just the outward physical sign. These are those who receive God's approval.