

**The Book of Romans**  
**2:1-11**  
**9/19/2018 Wednesday PM**

**Romans 2:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. <sup>2</sup>Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. <sup>3</sup>So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? <sup>4</sup>Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? <sup>5</sup>But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. <sup>6</sup>God "will give to each person according to what he has done." <sup>7</sup>To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. <sup>8</sup>But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. <sup>9</sup>There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; <sup>10</sup>but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>11</sup>For God does not show favoritism.

- Up until this chapter, Paul has been addressing his comments in the third person, speaking of “they.”
- **V. 1** – Now he turns to speaking in the second person with “You.”
  - Paul is not speaking to a specific person in these verses, but to the larger group.
  - He is using an ancient writing style called a *diatribe* – where the writer verbally attacks and attempts to destroy the ideas of the opposition. The anticipated questions of the opposition are expressed and then answered.
  - In the previous chapter, Paul spoke of many sins that people committed as they “suppressed the truth.”
  - Most of Paul’s attention in vv. 21-32 of Chapter 1 was focused to the Gentiles.
  - The Jews were listening to his comments and “nodding their head” in agreement with him.
  - It is these Jews, and others even, that Paul is referring to in v. 1 as passing “judgment on someone else.”
  - He basically humbles them a bit and tells them that they do the very same things, yet they are quick to pass judgment on others.
  - While they were passing judgement on others, they were overlooking their own sin.
- **V. 2** – Paul establishes ground rules for the argument he is about to engage in, “we know that God’s judgement against those who do such things is based on truth.”
  - Human judgement is based on prejudice and partial perception; God’s judgment is based on the truth.
  - Not only is God capable of judging rightly; eventually he will judge the entire human race at the Day of Judgment. **Matthew 11:24**
- **V. 3-4** – Paul begins in these two verses to ask the questions from the opposing side that he will answer.
  - **“Do you think you will escape God’s judgment?”**
  - **“...Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance?”**
  - In these two verses, Paul is exposes the Jewish people’s belief of being superior to the Gentiles.
  - They will not escape judgement and in fact, by thinking that they are “too good to sin,” they show contempt towards God.
  - Many Jews thought that their privilege of birth ensured them entrance into God’s kingdom. **Matthew 3:8-9**
  - Sometimes God’s patience and tolerance gives people the impression that He is ok with certain behavior, when in reality He is being gracious in giving us time to repent.
- **V. 5** – These people almost thought that they could sin without consequences.
  - Paul humbles them yet again and he tells them in this verse that they are stubborn and unrepentant.
    - He says they are, “storing up wrath” against their self for the day of God’s wrath.
    - This is speaking of our final judgement day. **Hebrews 9:7**
- **V. 6** – In this verse he says, “God “will give to each person according to what he has done.””
  - This is simply letting them know that all people will be held accountable for the truth that was available to them and what they did with it.

- What we have actually done in life will be the basis of God’s judgement.
- There will be no last-minute negotiations, once it is over, it is over.
- **V. 7** – Paul continues his thought pattern and says, “<sup>7</sup>To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.”
  - “Doing good” is a result of a new life in Christ.
  - Real faith generates good works in a believer’s life.
  - A true believer will persist in their faith and good works as they grow and mature.
  - Paul is not changing what he said earlier in 1:16-17 about salvation comes by faith alone.
  - He is simply pointing out that doing good should be a response to God’s grace, not a way of gaining God’s grace.
  - **Ephesians 2:8-10**, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”
- **V. 8** – “But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.”
  - Paul teaches clearly here that any self-seeking person that rejects the truth will meet God’s wrath.
  - These people that he has been speaking of that are only relying on themselves and have rejected the God that has made himself plain to them.
- **V. 9** – “<sup>9</sup>There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;”
  - Jews and Gentiles who do evil, even if they do not perceive it to be that way, will receive the consequences of final judgement.
  - Just like the gospel was presented first to the Jew and then to the Gentile (**1:16**), the Jews will be the first to experience God’s judgement.
  - This clearly speaks to Paul’s audience and lets them know that again “no one escapes judgment.”
  - Not only will the Jews be judged, but apparently they will be first in line.
- **V. 10-11** – “<sup>10</sup>but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>11</sup>For God does not show favoritism.”
  - Contrasting what he just said in prior verses, Paul wants to make sure that he reiterates that “glory” and salvation come to all of those that “do good.”
  - Again, the Jews first and then the Gentile.
  - God is not one to show favoritism.
  - He does not “grade on the curve” and he will not show preferential treatment at judgment time to one group over another.
  - Sin has created a chasm between us and God that no man can leap across. Only THE Cross, provides a bridge for us to pass on.
  - Every human being comes to that chasm and every human being has the opportunity to go by way of the Cross, it is all up to what choices each individual makes.

## Next Week Study

### Romans 2:12-16