

Seeing the Real Me

Romans 2

June 28, 2015

DAY 1: Overview of Romans 2

1. Last week we looked at a grim picture of the “Gentile” world. The Jews wholeheartedly agreed with Paul! Judgment *for them* was deserved!
2. But, they are just as guilty of sin as the Gentiles. This mortified them because they thought they were far more morally superior to the Gentiles because of their Jewish privileges.
3. The idea that they were under the same condemnation came as a shocker!
4. They thought of God as the judge of the heathen, but the faithful protector of the “chosen people.”
5. Paul makes five arguments that the Jews are just as guilty as the Gentiles.
 - a. The Gentiles (2:1-3)- the Jewish people do the same sins as the Gentiles. No difference!
 - b. God's Goodness (2:4) - God will judge everyone according to His goodness
 - c. God's Righteousness (2:5-11) - God will judge everyone according to his righteousness.
 - d. God's Law—unwritten and written (2:12-24) - Everyone has God's law, written or unwritten.
 - e. Circumcision (2:25-29) -No religious ceremony produces righteousness in one's heart.
6. God's judgment will be:
 - a. Righteous, based on God's moral law.
 - b. Good. He cannot allow evil to go on indefinitely. All evil will be punished.
7. When you think of God's judgment, what comes to your mind?

DAY 2: God's goodness (2:1-4)

Romans 2:1 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.

² *Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.*

³ *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?*

⁴ *Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?*

1. It's easy to read a list of sins like we saw in Romans 1 and then say, "Not me! I'm not bad."
2. What we **are** aware of is how others have sinned!
3. Because you don't think you've sinned, does that mean you haven't sinned? (2:1).
4. If a person doesn't think he's done sin, what does Paul say is proof positive that he indeed has sinned? (2:1)
5. Is God's judgment of man's sin arbitrary? If not, upon what is it based? (2:2)
6. Man lives as if God's judgment is a figment of religious fanatics. What does Paul say about God's judgment? (2:1, 3)
7. How does it strike you that mankind continues to sin while at the same time judging others that sin?
8. In addition to God's judgment, what other attribute of God does Paul cite? (2:4)
9. What things does Paul cite as evidence of God's kindness? (2:4)
10. Have you allowed God's kindness to lead you to repentance?

DAY 3: God righteousness: we're graded on character and conduct (2:5-11)

Romans 2:5 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.

⁶ God "will give to each person according to what he has done."

⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

⁹ There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;

¹⁰ but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

¹¹ For God does not show favoritism.

1. Find six things humans do that brings judgment from God.

2. We know that salvation is by grace through faith. As you read today's passage, you may wonder if Paul is talking about being saved by our works. He is not. What he is saying is that the **general trend** of someone's life is moving in one of two directions, either someone who "does good," or someone who "does bad." These phrases do not mean the occasional act of good or bad.

3. Think of King David. He committed several terrible sins, but over the thrust of his life God called him "a man after God's heart."

4. Think of Judas Iscariot. Judas confessed his sin of betrayal, and gave the blood money to buy a cemetery for people who didn't have relatives. But the total trend of his life was disobedience and rebellion.

James 2:14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?

¹⁵ Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food.

¹⁶ If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?

¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

5. Do your "works" reflect your trend of faith/ "doing good?"

DAY 4: God's written and unwritten Law (2:12-16)

Romans 2:12 All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.

¹³ *For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.*

¹⁴ *(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law,*

¹⁵ *since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)*

¹⁶ *This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.*

1. God gave His law to the Jewish nation through Moses.
2. But what about the Gentiles who did not have the Law of God? How can God righteously judge the Gentiles?
3. How does Paul answer that question? Look for two ways (2:14-15).
4. God's judgment of mankind is based on what is right. Evil will not have the final say with any of us, and it will not go unpunished!
5. Paul describes God's judgment in these terms:
 - a. According to truth (2:2)
 - b. According to our stubborn and unrepentant hearts (2:5)
 - c. According to man's deeds (2:6)
 - d. According to the secrets of men (2:16)
6. We expect our actions to be judge. Perhaps we even think of our words coming under judgment, but our secrets? Our thoughts?
7. What strikes you about God's judgment?

DAY 5: A real believer (2:17-29)

Romans 2:17 Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and brag about your relationship to God;

¹⁸ if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law;

¹⁹ if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark,

²⁰ an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth--

1. The Jewish people took great pride in that they were given God's law. Unfortunately they took the great privilege they were given and made it grounds to feel superior to the Gentiles.

2. What ways did the Jewish people see themselves as superior? What "smoke" do you smell in the air of their pride?

3. They measured themselves by their privilege rather than their conduct!

Romans 2:21 ... you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal?

²² You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

²³ You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?

²⁴ As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

4. Underline the items Paul puts his finger on of their neglect.

5. What were they missing in their ...

a. ...actions?

b. ...attitudes?

6. Paul cites another example of taking a religious privilege and turning it into a source of spiritual pride.

²⁵ Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. ²⁶ If those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised? ²⁷ The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker. ²⁸ A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. ²⁹ No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.

7. Do you smell the "smoke" of pride or superiority in yourself?