

Romans 2

vv. 1-3 → A STUDY ON JUDGING/JUDGEMENT - Religious hypocrites condemned themselves by being guilty of the same things for which they condemned others. (People are often guilty themselves of doing the wrong that they accuse others of.)

I. Is It Right To Judge? (Matt. 7:1; John 5:22)

A. Judge/Judgment (defined) - 1) to form an idea or opinion about, to think or suppose, to distinguish, to discriminate, to decide, to determine, to choose, to conclude, to try or test, to criticize, to call into question, 2) to compare and contrast facts, ideas, or doctrines, 3) (applies only to God) to condemn, to sentence, to execute chastisement or punishment. - John 5:22-30; Ps. 50:1-6; Rom. 2:16; 2 Tim. 4:1; Acts 17:31

1. Only God can see into and judge the heart and motives! - 1 Cor. 4:1-5; 1 Sam. 16:7; Acts 15:8

B. It is not only **right**, but also the **duty** of Christians to judge.

1. We are commanded to judge in the scriptures. - Lev. 19:35; John 7:24; Luke 7:41-43; 1 Cor. 10:15; 1 Cor. 2:15; Rom. 16:17-18; Acts 17:11; Prov. 21:15
2. We must judge false prophets. - Matt. 7:15; 1 John 4:1-3
 - a. The standard for judging is the scriptures (KJV). - Isa. 8:20
3. We are called to judge false doctrine. - 2 John 1:7-11
4. We are called to judge without hypocrisy. - Matt. 7:1-5
 - a. We are to judge others the way we would like to be judged. - Matt. 7:2; Mark 4:24; Luke 6:38
5. We are to judge immoral conduct - 1 Cor. 5:9-13
6. Disputes (of Christians) should be judged by Christians - 1 Cor. 6:1-8
7. We ought to judge ourselves. - 2 Cor. 13:5; 1 Cor. 11:31-32
8. We are not to condemn others. (as in definition #3) - James 4:11-12
 - a. Who do we think we are in assuming the role of God? - Rom. 12:19
9. We are not to judge whether people are actually saved. - 2 Tim. 2:19; Nahum 1:7 (other than for purpose of witnessing to them).

C. We must identify/separate from those who are in the wrong. - 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Eph. 5:6-11; Rom. 12:9; 1 Thess. 5:21-22; 2 Thess. 3:6, 14-15

1. Spiritual health can only be attained by separating from false doctrine.

D. We ought to steadily grow in our knowledge and ability to rightly judge (Phil. 1:9-10)

1. Able to discern both good and evil. - Heb. 5:11-14

E. We ought to temper our judgments

1. Consider that our lives will be judged - 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 14:10-12

Romans 2

2. Consider ourselves lest we be tempted - Gal. 6:1
3. Judgment must begin at the house of God - 1 Peter 4:17

F. The Lord loves judgment...so let's get it right! - Psalm 33:5; 37:28; Isa. 61:8

v. 4 - All of Gods dealings with the lost are for the **sole purpose** of getting every man to repent (change his mind/heart) and trust Jesus Christ as Saviour.

- Whether it is goodness or through suffering, God has one purpose in mind for all **lost** people, to awaken them to their need of Jesus Christ so they will trust Him as their Saviour by faith alone and not have to go to hell!
- Proof there really is a hell is the good/bad extremes God will go to in order to keep people out of hell.
- Here God uses the goodness of God to lead sinners to repentance. - Matt. 5:45; Jude 1:22-23
- Forbearance => God withholding rightful, just, and deserved punishment upon unsaved people (mercy); God **not yet** requiring just payment that is due for sin.
- Longsuffering => God patiently enduring and tolerating unsaved man's foolishness and sin for a long period of time.

vv. 5-16 - IN SUMMARY, this passage refers to God judging OT people by what they do with the light (and conscience) God has given them. God is also teaching us how to deal with those who believe in good works for salvation.

- There is no gospel of the grace of God in these verses...100% works...only Gods foolproof method to show all men are under the penalty of sin and there is no hope in living righteously to merit salvation.
- All men will be judged by the truth they know. These verses show nobody can attain eternal life by their deeds and the absolute futility of relying on good works to attain salvation.
- In this passage God addresses those who feel their good works will outweigh their bad works and those who believe they have some measure of self-righteousness that will merit/earn salvation.
- It is the ultimate proof that all men are under sin when God shows us that no man could possibly be justified by "patient continuance in well doing" v. 7

v. 5 - Gods just and righteous wrath is coming soon for those who are stiffnecked, hard-hearted, and stubborn. - Prov. 29:1; Obadiah 1:15

- Impenitent - Notice it does not say "unrepentant"; impenitent is not that a person couldn't repent, but that they **refuse** to repent when confronted with the challenge of the need to repent!
- Impenitence leads to callousness which leads to Gods indignation & wrath (v. 8)

Romans 2

- God's wrath and righteous judgment on the lost is being amassed, reserved, and stored up. The **more** failures to repent translate into **more** wrath getting stored up. - Gen. 15:12-16 (Example of water building up behind a dam)
- v. 6 - Here, God will judge and condemn according to deeds/actions.
- God will repay...no sins a lost person has ever committed will he get by with.
 - There is a pay-day someday! - Num. 32:20-23
 - Gods wrath will be poured out on the lost when they get cast into Hell!
- v. 7&10 - God gives light to all men and then will lead them to salvation if they follow the light they have been given. - Rom. 1:19-20; John 1:6-9; Titus 2:11
- It is eternally important to respond correctly to the light God gives. - Isa. 55:6-7; Hos. 10:12
 - One single failure to keep Gods law makes a person guilty of all! - James 2:10
- v. 8-9 - Those rejecting the light God has given them will suffer Gods righteous and boiling anger, Gods fierce wrath, and His extreme indignation and vengeance.
- Contentious - To rebel against God, to be prideful, stubborn, or belligerent, to argue or dispute; to strive or quarrel; to sow discord or conflict; to resist, scorn, scoff, mock, and to refuse or reject the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - God has no other choice but to cast into hell those rejecting Jesus Christ. - 2 Thess. 1:8-9; Luke 12:4-5
 - God made a plan of salvation, but He requires each individual to receive Jesus Christ by faith.
 - Principle: God gives more light to a person who receives the light already given.
- v. 10 - (Covered with verse 7)
- v. 11 - There is no respect of persons with God.
- Doesnt refer to nations or races (e.g. Israel), but to individuals.
 - Paul is speaking to a Gentile church with LOST people in it and telling them as far as sin, conscience, the Law, and salvation, THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE EQUAL BEFORE GOD!
 - Jews & Gentiles today are saved exactly the same way. - Rom. 3:22-23; 10:11-13
- v. 12 - All under sin and are guilty as charged, whether Jew or Gentile.
- Gentiles without (outside/not subject to) to the Law have 1) violated their own conscience and 2) Gods revelation of Himself in nature.
 - Conscience seared →cauterize; brand; render insensitive; to make callous, unfeeling, or harden (1 Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:15-16). Sinful things that no longer bother you (that God has already passed judgment on) reveal a **seared** conscience. It

Romans 2

shows a lack of sensitivity to God's word and the willingness to listen and obey the still small voice of the Holy Spirit. - Ex. 15:26

- Jews who had the Law violated the Mosaic Law (incl. the 10 commandments).
 - To be justified by the Law or without the Law (in theory), a person would have to live a perfect life, which is an absolute impossibility.
- v. 13 - Directed to the Jews who had the Law, but unable to keep it. - Acts 15:1-12
- It's the Pharisees of today that are still preaching a works (Lordship) salvation, e.g. you must give up this or that or you must repent of (turn from) all your sins in order to get saved...I wonder...have they?!?!? NOT ONE OF THEM HAVE!!
 - As believers, we are free from the law of sin and death. - Rom. 8:1-4 esp. v.2
- v. 14 - Illustration of vv. 12-13
- Gentiles have a conscience given to them by God. Ex: All people know it is wrong to kill, commit adultery, lie, or steal because God has written it on their hearts (their God-given conscience).
 - Therefore we become guilty when we violate the law we know and deserve death and hell.
 - No sinner ever fully obeys the law or completely adheres to his conscience or complies with all the truth he knows.
 - God is bringing ALL PEOPLE to a personal conviction of their sinfulness.
 - The heathen will be judged based on their own understanding of right and wrong.
 - Cf. Romans 7:7-14, esp. v. 10
- v. 15 - This is the "its never my fault" and the "please excuse my sin" crowd
- People spend most of their time excusing their own sin or pointing out the sins of others in an effort to make themselves look better.
 - Its always somebody else's fault...parents, upbringing, culture, circumstances, schooling, environment, lack of opportunity, bad influences, etc.
 - Its the alibi for continuing in sin. EXAMPLES: After all, everybody is doing it, it depends on how you look at it, a little bit won't hurt me, I know when to stop, I can stop whenever I want, I have this under control, don't worry...be happy, I can handle it, it won't hurt to do it just this once, nobody cares, nobody will ever know, etc. etc.
 - Christians should ask: Is it the right thing to do? Will it bring honor and glory to God? Can I ask God to bless it? If the Lord returns while I'm doing it, would He approve of it? Is it in line with the scriptures?
- v. 16 - The final judgment is coming after the Millennium for the lost at the Great White throne judgment. - Rev. 20:11-15

Romans 2

- It will be according to the gospel (perfect standard), it will be by a perfect Judge, Jesus Christ.
- It will be a just and proper judgment for the lost.

v. 17 - Now the Bible turns to the **self-righteous Jews**.

- The Jews considered themselves superior to the Gentiles
- They used the Law as a badge of honor and a status symbol of their supposed “morality.”
- They used the Law as a pillow to rest on rather than as a personal judge to convict them of their own hypocrisy and lead them to repentance.
- They used the Law as a tool to compare and prove their superiority to other men.
- They thought the Law gave them a special path to God, not available to other men

v. 18 - They used the Law to boast and brag about knowing God's will as revealed in the OT because they saw themselves as being more educated and religious than those heathen Gentile dogs.

v. 19 - The Jews were self-confident, arrogant, and full of pride because they had the supposed “light” of the Law, when in reality they were rejecting their Messiah Jesus Christ, the true Light!

- The Jews misused the Law to polish and promote their own self-righteousness rather than receive Jesus Christ as their Messiah.
- Even today the Jews largely refuse to acknowledge or study the OT prophecies and their fulfillment in Jesus, e.g. Isa. 53

v. 20 - The Jews treated those outside the Law as “foolish” and “babes”, i.e. as people who are inferior and ignorant.

- “Form of knowledge” → they took the 10 commandments and added men's traditions to them to form some 613 laws for public display, which formed the basis of their self-righteousness.
- Cf. Mark 7:9-13 - They Jews found loopholes around the intent of the Law

v. 21-22 - Are you Jews practicing what you preach? (Hypocrisy in action!)

- The Jews were subverting the Law for their own profit.
- Matt. 23:1-15 - Just like those who want you to send them money so you can be “blessed” with wealth or “healed” of your sickness.
- Adultery and lust - Matt. 5:28
- Sacrilege - To steal, violate, or profane the sacred things that rightfully belong to God, e.g. when idols were being destroyed, the Jews made a business out of hiring soldiers to take the spoils and anything of value and bring it to them. The Jews were like unscrupulous TV preachers!

Romans 2

vv. 23-24 - Breaking the Law dishonors God.

- Even the Gentiles could see they were a bunch of hypocrites, causing them to mock and ridicule the Jews scriptures and their God.
- As Christians, Gods name and purposes are hindered when we fail to live up to our calling.
- 2 Samuel 12:7-14 esp.v.14 - David's sin led to an occasion for the enemies of God to mock, scorn, and blaspheme the Lord (SO DOES OUR SINS!).
- Nobody will see a need to become a Christian if there isn't something different about us!!

vv. 25-29 - SUMMARY: Outward vs. Inward. Living a righteous life is only meaningful and profitable if we are saved! - Matt. 7:21-23 (PA)

- Outward circumcision is only profitable if the Law is in place; today we are **NOT** in the dispensation of the Law, so circumcision means **NOTHING**. - Gal. 5:6, 6:15
- v.26 - If the Gentiles keep the truth and Law they know, then his uncircumcision is accounted by God as circumcision and the Gentile will receive the blessings of God. - 1 Cor. 7:19
- v.27 - Will not God allow a Gentile who fulfills the Law to judge the Jew who is only outwardly circumcised? Jews that reject Jesus Christ will be judged 1) by the Gentiles (Matt. 12:41-42), 2) by the Scriptures (John 5:38-40), 3) by Moses (John 5:42-47), 4) by Abraham (John 8:39-40, 52-59), and 5) by their own mouth (Matt. 27:24-26)
- vv. 28-29 - Circumcision here is not the outward cutting, but an inward (spiritual) cutting of the heart.
- A real Jew is only a Jew if he is circumcised inwardly. - Col. 2:11
- Compare what God said in the OT: Deut. 10:16-17; Jer. 9:23-26
- God is saying that a Jew who doesn't keep the Law is no better off than an unbelieving Gentile dog that violates his conscience or the truth he knows by nature.
- In fact the Jew is worse off, because he causes unbelieving Gentiles to blaspheme God and bring reproach upon Gods Law.
- In the Church Age, there is no difference. - Rom. 3:22, 10:12-13
- HENCE: There is no hope for anybody outside of Jesus Christ because no Jew ever kept the Law perfectly and no Gentile ever completely obeys his conscience and all the truth given to him by God. - James 4:17