
The Epistle of the Romans (6)

Overview of Romans chapter 2

- Romans 2:1-11 *God will judge and reward men according to what they have done*
- Romans 2:12-16 *In His judgment, God will consider the measure of light each has enjoyed*
- Romans 2:17-24 *When tested by God's written law, the Jews are shown to be under God's wrath*
- Romans 2:25-29 *Circumcision (being a Jew) is only valuable if the heart is changed*

INTRODUCTION

Although it seemed that Paul is teaching salvation by works (2:1-11) this is not the case. He shows clearly in the following passages that no one is good, can do good and will be saved by doing good (3:9-20). No one can be saved on the grounds of his own works. All that is said in these first verses is that *if* anyone **does good** (completely in conformity with the law's demands), he will be saved. The sad truth is that since our fall we cannot do any good.

Our fall, however, doesn't excuse us. In Romans 1:20 God teaches that we are without excuse because God made Himself known to us through nature. Added to this is God's revelation of goodness in His gracious dealings (2:4). In the end God will judge us on basis of what He has done for us and what we have done with what He did and gave us. In this next section of Romans 2 Paul taught that God will judge men according the light they have enjoyed, or according to the extent of the law under which they have lived.

Romans 2:12-16

Vs. 12

1. This verse is related to verse 11: how?
2. Who are 'without the law?' Who are 'in the law'?
3. The one group shall 'perish' and the other group shall be 'judged.' What is the point Paul emphasized with those two words?
4. Many will perish because they have never heard to the Gospel. How should that truth affect us? When one asked John Stott (a former preacher) this question, he bowed his head and wept. Why is that a fitting response?

Vs. 13

5. Define the word 'justified' and how shall any man be justified by the law?

Vs. 14-16

6. How can we explain that to a certain extent every heathen (here a person without any revelation of God's Word) does do the things contained in the Law? And to what extent do we need to understand 'they do by nature the things contained in the law?' What are those things?
7. Will God excuse the sins heathens did in their darkness of understanding?
8. Verse 16 is a conclusion of the entire section and the proper meaning is clear when you pre-face these words with, "**All this will become clear in the day when God**".
 - a. Prove from other Scriptures that God entrusted to Jesus the judgment of the world.
 - b. How does this verse indirectly teach the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ?

General Discussion Questions:

9. When we share the Gospel message of God's gracious love with someone, how much should we include a reference to the glorious and solemn day of Christ's return unto judgment?
10. Can 'unregenerate people' do good? Would such a sentiment be a denial of 'total depravity?'
11. We live in an age where many have not even a functional knowledge of the Scripture content, in other words, we are surrounded with heathens! Yet what connecting point is there in each person that lives around us? How must we tap into that as we speak to them?
12. Paul wrote about 'their conscience bearing witness.' What should we do when our conscience accuses us of sin? Can our conscience err either in the good or bad way?