

Romans 2

Romans 2.1-4 – The failure of the Jews

V1 – Referring to the Jews (*v 17*)

- Jews were world-famous for judging other people
- Matthew 23.1-14* – The false judgment of the scribes and Pharisees
- Also see *Matthew 23.25-28*
- What is the danger of judging other people?** We are sinful also
- Example: A local judge was recently arrested for drunk driving
- Example: A local minister ran off with his secretary

V2 – Those who judge others will face the judgment of God

V3 – Beginning with Christ, was God a respecter of persons? No

- Proof?** Peter – *Acts 10.28* – God told Peter to call no man common
- Paul – *Acts 17.30* – all men everywhere should repent
- Were Jews given special privileges in the Old Testament?** Yes
- In the New Testament?** Yes, they were given the gospel first, but by and large they rejected it

V4 – Paul is becoming increasingly firmer with Jews

- The Jews should have repented and accepted Jesus as the Christ

Romans 2.5-11

V5 – What trouble had Jews already caused in early church? They tried to bind circumcision on new converts – See *Acts 15*

- Who else gave a similar judgment of the Jews?** Stephen – *Acts 7.51-53*
- Use of “storing up,” an old Jewish concept:
- 1 Corinthians 16.2* – to lay by in store
- 1 Timothy 6.17-19* – NASB translation
- Matthew 6.20* – We are to lay up treasures in heavens
- What were the Jews "storing up"?** The wrath of God, because of their disobedience

V6 – What great principles of God’s judgment are found in this verse?

- Every person will be judged individually
- According to each one's deeds - *James 2.14-17*
- Also see *Psalms 62.12-13* and *Matthew 16.27*

V7 – “Honor and glory,” a frequently used phrase in *Revelation* – See *Revelation 4.11, 5.13*

- What are some ways that people seek immortality outside of Christ?** Building beautiful structures, such as the Taj Mahal and the pyramids
- Statues, such as the Sphinx

- Great works of art, literature,
- Setting records in sports, etc.
- But how should we achieve immorality?** By our good deeds in the eyes of God

V 8 – But most people are fighting God with their evil behavior

V 9 – Gospel was first delivered to the Jews; therefore their condemnation came first
 -**Why were they more responsible for obeying Christ?** They had an Old Testament background

V 10 – But the blessings are on those who are obedient to God, first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles (Greeks)

V 11 – Other Scriptures that demonstrate this principle of obedience:

- 1 Samuel 16.17
- 2 Chronicles 19.7
- Job 34.19
- Galatians 2.6
- Ephesians 6.9
- 1 Peter 1.17

Romans 2.12-16

V 12 – Was salvation possible outside the Law of Moses and before Acts 2? Yes, because God put a moral system in the mind of every person (the conscience)

- For example, consider the "Code of Hammurabi"
- Hammurabi was a king of Babylon – 1728-1686 B.C.
- He developed a code similar to the Ten Commandments, dealing with kidnapping, adultery, malpractice, women's rights, about 300 paragraphs long
- What is the significance of these verses to Jews?** Even the Gentiles in the Old Testament had the opportunity to be saved!

V 13-14 – Those who obeyed the law of the heart (outside the Law of Moses) were saved by the mercy of God and were monotheistic

- Consider the life, for example, of Zoroaster, who was monotheistic even before the days of Judaism

V 15 – Their conscience gave them a sense of values

- Even today, for example, if a person is stopped by a police officer for speeding, but the person is absolutely sure that he was not speeding, he objects to getting a ticket – **Why?**
- Where does that sense of justice (or the lack of it) come from? Why do people who know nothing about the gospel of Christ still get very indignant over how they have been wronged?**

V 16 – God will judge all people through Jesus Christ

Romans 2.17-24

V 17 – Were the Jews prone to rely on the name Jew? Yes, *Matthew 23.29-33*

-Swearing by the gold of temple, etc.

-*John 5.45* – They liked to rely on the name of Moses

-Similar today: Some people are proud that their wives and daughters can be members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, or that they can be members of the American Legion, and other organizations

-People rely on things that have nothing to do with salvation!

V 18 – So based on their illustrious background, the Jews thought they could judge the rest of the world

V 19 – They thought that they could become guides to the blind

V 20 – And they thought they could instruct others

-**Application to us today?** We also have knowledge of the truth, but must put it into use

V 21 – **But what was their problem?** They did not practice what they were preaching to others and committed flagrant violations of the law

V 22 – **What were two examples of their hypocrisy?** They preached against adultery, but committed adultery themselves

-And they preached against idolatry, but robbed temples (the charge falsely brought against Paul at Ephesus, *Acts 19.37*)

V 24 – Hypocrites – **What is the result of hypocrisy?** Disbelief among outsiders and the way of truth is maligned - See *2 Peter 2.1-2*

Romans 2.25-29

V 25 – **How important was circumcision to Jews?** *Genesis 17.9-12* – It sealed the pact between Abraham and God

-Sara was to bear a child

-It was the “*sine qua non*” [sin.i kwā-nān], the mark that proves a point conclusively

V 28-29 – **Paul’s conclusion about circumcision?**

-It should be a circumcision made without human hands - *Colossians 2.11*

-Christians are the circumcision who worship God today - *Philippians 3.3*

-**What was the message of Paul here?** Being a Jew does not mean anything to God anymore – it is the condition of the heart that counts today

Similar Scriptures that speak these same principles:

-*Matt. 23.25* – Not the wiping of the cup, but what the person drinks

-*Rom. 7.6* – We are to serve the Spirit, not the Old Law

-*Gal. 5.2-24* – Christ crucified the flesh; the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience...self-control

-*James 2.1-10* – We are not to judge people by the quality of their clothes

Revised 2013-02-04