

# **ROMANS CHAPTER 2**

**Romans 2 - Session 1 (2:1-29)**

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## **INTRODUCTION:**

### **EVERYONE IS FALLING SHORT, JEW AND GENTILE**

Throughout Romans, Paul shares the good news and the bad news with his readers. Unless you understand the bad news, you will not appreciate the good news. Unless we understand how lost we are as humanity, we cannot value the tremendous gift of salvation God has given us. Paul also shares the good and the bad news because it is important that we have a balanced view of God.

Very often there is an over emphasis on one characteristic of God while ignoring another. For example, we will often focus on the love of God and forget that that same loving God is also the Judge that can inflict punishment.

Is God a loving God? Yes, but He is more than that.

Psalm 7:11 says, "God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day." The loving God is also the righteous judge.

If a murderer who killed your family and 12 other people was arrested and appeared before the judge and judge say, "I am in a good mood today, I am going to let you go," we will say, "that is not justice", yet we expect God to simply ignore the atrocities committed by humanity every day. We need to be balanced in our view of God and learn to love and embrace the full counsel of the LORD.

### **Illustration Story:**

In a small town, a young child sat in a stagecoach pulled by horses. Something frightened the horses and they began to run. This child was trapped in the stagecoach and his life was in danger. A young man standing nearby saw what was happening and he ran, risked his life and saved the boy. The boy grew up and sadly became a criminal. The young man who saved the boy's life became a judge. One day the criminal committed a horrific crime and he appeared before the judge, the very young man that saved his life many years earlier. The criminal recognised the judge as the man who saved his life. Appealed to the judge based on their earlier experience to save him now. The judge looked at the criminal and said, son, on that day I was your saviour, today I am your judge. The judge went on to sentence the criminal to death. That was justice and that was what the judge had to do in that case. Jesus is our Saviour, but we should not forget that God is also the Judge.

Romans 1, 2 & 3 is to show that everyone has fallen short of God's glory and that no matter what we try, we cannot save ourselves and get free from the power of sin.

## **CHAPTER 1 QUICK OVERVIEW**

In chapter 1 Paul deals with the unsaved gentile, the immoral person who likes to sin and Paul shows us what the consequences are to living in sin. God gives them over to their sin, it's called God's abandonment wrath. Signs of abandonment wrath is increasing sexual immorality, pornography, homosexual practices, lesbianism, drunkenness, boastful people, etc. and then they end up having a depraved mind, a useless mind.

## **CHAPTER 2 – THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS PERSON**

In chapter 2 Paul deals with yet another type of sin, but it looks much different from the sin mentioned in chapter one. Chapter two deals with the sin of trying to become righteous through religious practices, the human effort to connect with God and deal with sin. It deals with the self-righteous. Paul addresses the religious people who do the same sins and things as others but hide behind their religious practices, pretending that they are living right.

Self-righteous people are those who tries to fight sin in the flesh, thinking that they are holy, yet they are doing the very sins they accuse others of doing. They forget that holiness can only come through Christ and not through the fleshly efforts of man. It does not matter if you are a sinful gentile engaging in drunkenness, homosexuality, lesbianism, gossips, arrogant, boastful, etc., or if you are a very religious Jew trying to do everything right, everyone is lost without Jesus Christ.

### **John 14:6 NIV**

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

No effort of man can produce holiness and righteousness, only Christ can do it in us.

### **CONVINCING THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS PERSON OF SIN**

Sometimes we look at people who are living immoral lives and we condemn them because we might feel that we are living a moral lifestyle. Often we think of ourselves as morally right. Religion makes you think you are holy, right, yet you might be falling short of God's standard.

It is not too difficult to convince the immoral person that what they are doing is wrong, but to convince the self-righteous person that how they are living is wrong, is very difficult. Why? Because they believe that they are right.

Their attitude is something like this;

"I am so thankful I am not like them".

"I am not living a bad life, I pay my taxes, I do not murder people, I don't steal."

"I live in a Christian nation so I am a Christian and I am ok."

"I give to homeless people, fundraisings, and cancer research."

The thing is this, heaven is not filled with good people but saved people who have been made righteous through the blood of Christ.

You don't go to heaven because you are good. You don't go to heaven because your parents were Christians. You don't go to heaven because you do less wrongful things than other people. You go to heaven because of what Jesus did and your full faith in the completed work on the cross.

Religion says this is what you must do to get your life sorted out. The Gospel (Christianity) says this is what God has done to get you out of the mess you are in. God saves those who trust Him. Because God saves people based on their faith it is open to everybody.

Like the gentiles in chapter one, the self-righteous rejects God by relying on his own goodness,

thinking that you are good enough to make it to heaven and to please God. Transference is when a guilty person feels bad about what he is doing, so he looks at others and blames them for what they are doing and it makes him feel better, that he is not alone. Should we do good to others, yes, but that does not save your soul.

Religious people (those who practice religious activities without having a real relationship with Jesus Christ) often compare themselves with others around them and it makes them look and feel good about themselves. The measuring stick is not how others live, but God's Word. Religious people (those who think they are good because of their own effort) are often hypocritical, negative and condemning in nature.

### **2 Cor 10:12**

"We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise."

People without Christ falls short of God's glory, regardless who they are or think they are or all the good they do.

### **Matthew 7:4- 5**

How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while there is still a beam in your own eye? 5You hypocrite! First take the beam out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

You cannot step into heaven without being covered by Jesus' blood.

## **HOW GOD JUDGES MAN**

### **Romans 2:14-16**

14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, 15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, 16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

If you die without knowing Jesus, God judges you based on your response to your conscience. God judges you on the information you know. To him to whom much is given, much will be required. What did you make with your knowledge about Jesus Christ?

The gentiles did not know much, yet God holds them accountable to their response to Him, based on the revelation they have.

The Jews have much truth, yet they did not yield to that truth and committed the same sins as the gentiles. For them too, God will judge them based on their knowledge and response to the truth.

The sinner and the educated religious moralist are under God's judgment. Jesus came to bring change. He loves you just the way you are but He loves you too much to leave you the way you are.

Story: Two friends grew up together and they loved one another. The one became a judge the other a banker. Over the years the banker embezzled large sums of money. He was caught and was charged. When he arrived in court he stood before his friend the judge. The judge. Who recognised his old loving friend, gave him the hardest sentence, the biggest fine that he could. The criminal had to pay the price for his crime. After the judge pronounced the verdict and sentence, he took off his robe, went down and before hugging his friend said, I emptied my bank account, sold my house, car, everything I have to pay the fine I sentenced you with. That is how it is with God. As a judge, He must uphold righteousness and justice, but as a friend he paid the price. If humanity keeps on rejecting the great price God has paid by allowing His Son Jesus Christ to die and pay the price for our guilt, that person will have to pay the most terrible price one day when they meet the judge in the afterlife.

## **CONCLUSION**

### **Romans 2:28-29**

28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. 29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

God wants to circumcise our hearts! Don't live your life seeking the praises of men, but rather the praise of God! When God circumcise your heart it implies the cutting away of your sinful nature (Col 2). If you are a self-righteous person, surrender your life to Christ, because only He can deal with the sin in your life.

### **Romans 2:4**

Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

Let's not abuse God's kindness and goodness towards us, choose Jesus Christ today!