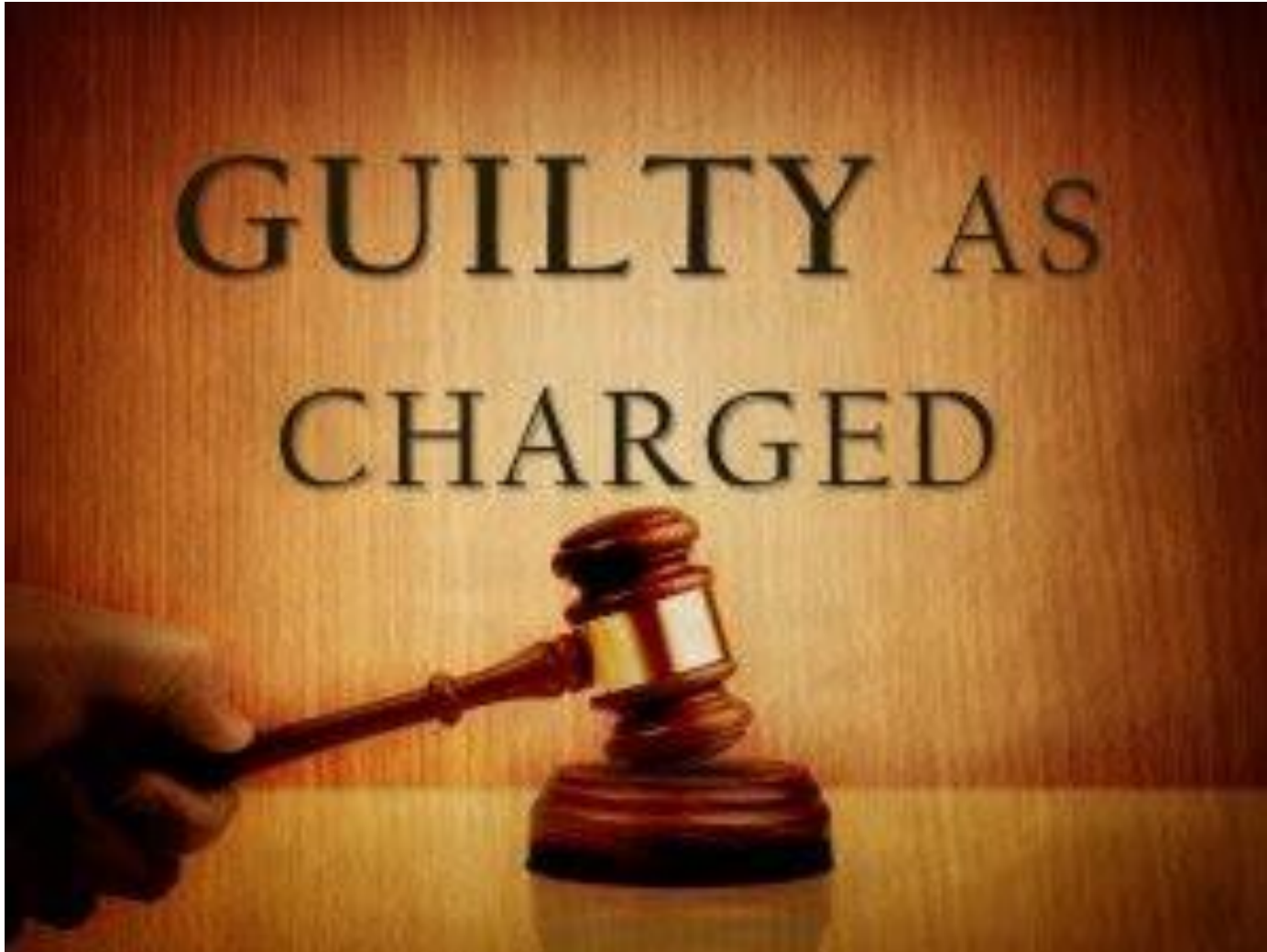


Romans 2

The Whole World is Guilty Before God



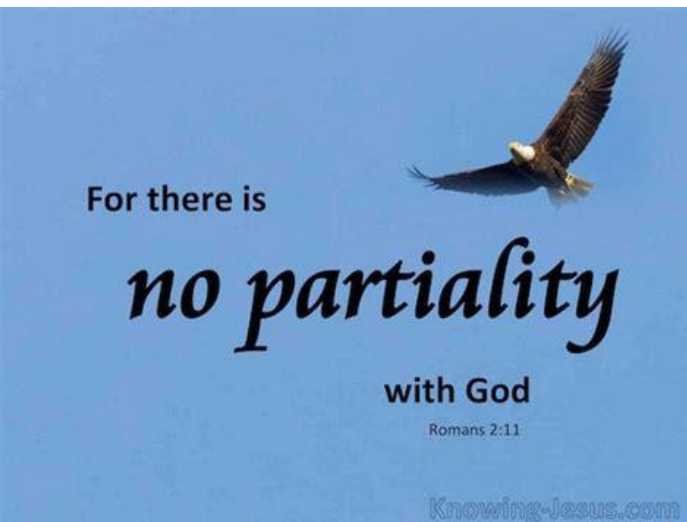
Romans 2 - Themes



The Hypocrisy of
Humanity

Don't Think You are
Better than Others

Be Thankful



Summary of God's Wrath & Judgement

Wrath – Why?

(Romans 1:18-24)

1. Revelation – Creation
2. No Thankfulness
3. Rationalization of Sin
“professing to be
wise-fools”
4. False Religion /
Idolatry

Wrath – Results

(Romans 1:24-32)

ABANDONMENT

1. Sexual Immorality
2. Degrading Passions
3. Reprobate Mind – no
conscience/madness
4. All other Sin
5. Approve Sin of Others

**IF YOU REJECT GOD,
GOD REJECTS YOU**

Romans 2 – Scripture

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k89TgGKxaPs>

Romans 2 – 3:21 Overview

Diatribes – debating style where writer anticipates and answers opponents criticism, in form of a question or objection. 3 parts – address objector; raise their criticism; answer the criticism. Paul uses it in addresses to the Jews only, not the Gentile sections.

Israel/Jew/Moral Pagans

Rom 2:1-11

- Israel – non-Christian Jews **sin** in that they **do not perfectly comply with Torah** (all 613 laws), and are being judged now (Roman occupation) and in the future.
- Israel sinned by idolatry (same as Gentiles), but felt entitled to divine mercy.
- Jew – You think you are exempt from judgement, but to delay repentance is to store up wrath for the future.
- General – don't judge, be thankful, repent.
- God is impartial (fair), he will judge both Jew & Gentile according to truth
- **Guilty!**

Gentile Moral Pagans

Rom 2:12-16

- V12a) “**For as many as have sinned without law, will perish without law**”
- Non-Christian Gentiles **sin** since they don't comply with Torah or Natural Law.
- Gentiles are **judged** now (by their **conscience, showing the work of the law written in their hearts**) and in the future on Day of the Lord.
- Natural law sometimes overlaps with Torah (Common Grace), but they are still not justified, since they do not follow it perfectly.
- Because God is **impartial**, Jews (Torah) & Gentiles (Natural Law) are **judged on amount of revelation they have**, & criteria for judgement is DOING not just HEARING
- Gentiles sometimes obey God's natural law, but not always, and are therefore **Condemned**.

Jews have the Law

Rom 2:17-24

- Jews, knowing the law, are **condemned by the law**.
- You boast about your covenant relationship with God as making you superior to Gentiles.
- But you **commit the same sins** and invalidate your circumcision and **blaspheme the name of God**. You are therefore **Guilty!**

Do Jews have Advantage?

Rom 3:1-8

- Objector says, according to Paul, there is no advantage in being Jewish and God has broken His promises to His chosen people.
- Paul says, on the contrary, **there are many advantages for the Jews**, oracles of God, and God is faithful & just.
- Furthermore, these advantages of the Jew makes their **Condemnation** Greater

Rom 3:9-20 – FINAL VERDICT

The Whole World is GUILTY before God

3:10 – “both Jews and Gentiles are all under sin.”

Judgement of God

Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed
for men to die once, but
after this the judgment,

Romans – Chapter 2:1 **NO EXCUSE**

Moral People (You & Me) are no Better than the Sinners (of 1:18-32)

- Section of 1:18-32 that launches the book of Romans is that the whole world is under judgement and the wrath of God falls on those who break His laws (Torah or Natural Laws).
- Moral people would agree with the justice of God's wrath against the sins listed in Chapter 1 committed by the evil sinners (pagans).
- But these **moral people think they will escape this wrath** and go to heaven **because they feel morally righteous compared to others**. Therefore they are judging others to reach this conclusion.
- **Moral people are ignorant to the fact that Man's righteousness or code of judgement is considered unrighteousness to God** (Faith in Christ is the only Righteousness God will accept. Without Jesus, man is under absolute condemnation.)
- **Man underestimates God's standards for righteousness** and the depth of their own sin. Wakes us up to the great salvation.

v. 1-2 You who Judge have No Excuse

- In 1:20, men are without excuse because God's **revelation** is written across the face of nature (**creation**); in 2:1-2, men are without excuse because God's truth is written in their **conscience**.
- The judging here is **MORAL** in nature (ethics, race, wealth, education, etc.) |
- **If you are judging someone else**, it shows you have the God-given conscience to discern between right and wrong, and you are sinning just like the ones you judge (maybe not the same sin, but you are still sinning, and "there is no difference" Rom 3:23)
- The **self righteous** who pass judgement, brings greater judgement to himself because not only does he do those things too, but he is judged for his hypocrisy in the judgment of others.
- God hates pride, and **the fact you think you are better than someone is PRIDE** and **admission that you yourself are a terrible sinner like the Pharisees** (obey law, know scripture, churchgoers, judging others)
- Easier for a camel to go through eye of a needle/remove the log in your eye/unless your righteousness exceeds Pharisees...

Judging Others – 2 Types of Judging

1. What We Must Not Judge

Judging Someone's Heart Motives = Condemning

- Being critical of other's failures, decisions, words or actions.
- This is a self-righteous spirit, but ironically, we are often projecting what is in our own hearts in the process (Matt. 7:3-4)
- Results in chastisement from God.
- In addition to possibly causing harm to other people's lives (slander), it will result in a loss of joy and peace to you, it will magnify your own sins, it makes us vulnerable to unforgiveness, cultivates pride and puts us in opposition to God, who is the only judge of the heart.



Judging Others – 2 Types of Judging

2. What We Are Supposed to Judge

1. False Teaching, Morality or Actions – Matt. 7:15-16

- According to a proper understanding of the Bible.
- It's **right** to condemn an **action** as immoral (slander, lying, gossip, stealing), but **wrong** to condemn a non-Christian **individual**. That would be playing God.

2. Judge Yourself – 1 Cor. 11:31-32; 2 Cor. 13:5

3. Sinful behaviour of professing Christians

- Don't be condemning or self righteous, but in love and with a humble heart, knowing you too could easily fall to sin, have a goal of getting the person to repent. "take heed lest you fall" 1 Cor. 10:12
- BE SLOW TO JUDGE – have a healthy suspicion of your own pride before doing this – many situations are not clear.

Principles of God's Judgement

1. According to **Truth** (v.2)
2. **Thankfulness** is measured (v.4)
3. **Accumulated Guilt** (v.5)
4. According to **Works** (v.6-7)
5. **Impartial** (no favored people) (v.11)
6. **Doers** not just Hearers (v.13)
7. **Secrets of the Heart** (v.16)
8. Race doesn't matter (v.17-29)

Romans – Chapter 2:3 **NO ESCAPE**

Principals of Judgement

According to Truth

- **God's Truth**, not our self-righteous delusions
- Most people think their own perverted/fallen view of truth is real and it always favors them (compared to others, I am very good - This is the delusion that we already have the answer.)
- **See Luke 18:9-14 for the truth**– humbleness, confession of your sinfulness, repentance and deeds from right motive.

Romans – Chapter 2:3 **NO ESCAPE**

Principals of Judgement

TRUTH = There is No Escape from Judgement (except by God's Salvation)

- **People Believe the Lie that there will be no judgement.** (Gen 3:4)
- **The Great White Throne Judgment** (Rev. 20:11–15).
 - This final judgment of unbelievers for their sins occurs at the end of the Millennium - unbelievers are judged by Jesus Christ for their sins and consigned to the lake of fire.
- **Judgment seat of Christ** (2 Cor. 5:10).
 - Resurrected believers will be judged for their works.
 - Sin is not in view at this judgment, as that was paid for by Christ, but only faithfulness in Christian service. Selfish works or those done with wrong motives will be burned up (“wood, hay, and stubble” of 1 Cor. 3:12).
 - Works of lasting value to the Lord will survive (“gold, silver, and precious stones”). Rewards (“crowns”) (Rev. 3:11) will be given.

Romans – Chapter 2:4-5
Principals of Judgement
NO THANKFULNESS

- **Failure to Appreciate (thankful) God's Riches:**
 - **Goodness (loving-kindness)** – the reason for worship – Ps 23, [145:1-7](#)
 - **Forbearance & Longsuffering** -tolerant, restraint, delay of wrath
- **Builds up even More Wrath! (Great White Throne)**

Romans – Chapter 2:4-5 **NO THANKFULNESS**

Principals of Judgement

- **Common Grace** (Count your blessings, count them one-by-one...)
 - God's undeserved Grace to sinners (nice meal, health, life itself)
 - God doesn't owe anyone anything - could have destroyed Adam/Noah...
 - God continues to pour out His blessing to sinful man even before they accept His Son, so we **have time to Repent** (when our hearts break at God's grace)
- Society's abundance leads us to not appreciate God & leads to **hard heartedness**, making us spiritually blind and insensitive (v.5)
- **Despising God's riches (being unthankful) is worse than sins of flesh**
- Instead of asking, why does God let good people suffer, the question should be why is God so good to let anyone live (mercy)
- **Luke 13:1-5 – Repent or Perish – The time of grace is now**

Principals of Judgement

• Deeds - of the Christian (v.7)

- **Judgement Seat of Christ deeds** – reaping and sowing – Christians are judged and rewarded based on obedience to God’s will and the products of your life (“fruits”). (Matt. 7:21-27)
- While judgement of the Christian is by works, salvation is by faith. This is what he meant by “obedience to the faith” in 1:5
- Highest deed is seeking glory for God, in motive too.

• Deeds - of the Unsaved Sinner (v.8)

- **Motive is selfish ambition**
- Does not obey the ways of the Bible or God’s will
- **Tribulation** (anguish, affliction, grapes of wrath),
- **Distress** (confinement, isolation, no escape possible - Hell)

Romans – Chapter 2:5-9

Principals of Judgement – Heaven & Hell

- Romans 2:5-9 “But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are **treasuring up for yourself wrath** in the day of wrath and revelation **of the righteous judgment of God**,⁶ who “will render to each one according to his deeds”: **eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;**⁸ **but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,**⁹ **tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil...**
- **There will be a judgement based on “Righteousness”**
- **Rewards for Believers = Eternal Life**
- **Punishment for Unbelievers = WRATH, Tribulation**
- **Concept of Accumulated Wrath – it will be worse for some than others**
- We would like to think that people who are morally good and try to love others and live a good life will be saved and go to heaven. But this is NOT what the book of Romans teaches. Everyone will be judged.

Judgement According to Deeds (Works)

Old Testament

1. Job 34:11
2. Psalm 62:12
3. Ecclesiastes 12:14
4. Jeremiah 17:10;
32:19

New Testament

1. Matt.16:27; 25:31-46
2. Romans 14:12
3. 1 Corinthians 3:8
4. 2 Corinthians 5:10
5. 1 Peter 1:17
6. Titus 2:11-14
7. Rev. 2:23; 20:12

Romans – Chapter 2: 11

Principals of Judgement

Impartiality (v.11-16)

- All will be judged impartially, not based on biblical knowledge, baptism, position, education, class, influence..., **but on obedience to God's will.**
 - **Deut. 10:17; 2 Chron. 19:7; Acts 10:34;** Gal. 2:6; Eph. 6:9; Col. 3:25; 1 Pet 1:17
- This **excludes the amount of spiritual knowledge he has** – Gentiles who have never heard the Gospel or the Law, will be judged according to their more limited knowledge, but they will still perish because of natural revelation and inner moral revelation (Rom 2:14-15 like 1:20).
- Jews who had the advantage of the law, and apostates who know the truth & turned their back on it, will be judged more harshly and will face more severe tribulation and distress.
- No favoured nation status for Israel, despite its many advantages. (**Mark 12:1-13-Tenants of vineyard had no fruit; Matt 22:1-9 – wedding guests (Jews) rejected invitation (marriage of Messiah) – Israel was chosen to show and tell the world the about the one true God but they rejected and killed the Messiah, now it's the Church, those who repent of their sin and have faith in Jesus Christ**)
- **Luke 12:47-48; Heb. 6:4-6; 10:26-31**

Romans – Chapter 2:13

Principals of Judgement

Doers of the Word – v.13

- Knowledge is not enough – 2:6 talked of deeds too
- 2:13 “...doers of the law will be justified” – it’s not that obeying the law justifies (since it’s impossible to obey it perfectly and goes against the thesis of the Epistle), it demonstrates evidence they are justified or saved.
- Matt 7:24-27; John 13:17; James 1:22-25; James 2:20-26
- Purpose of the law is to point to our sins and lead us to salvation and repentance. We obey the law by having Christ live out from our hearts, He fulfills the law if we are trusting and obeying Him.
- **Conclusion of Judgement Section 2:1-16**
 - All people will face it (no escape), includes your secret life, both Jew and Gentile (impartial), **and all will be found guilty.**
 - Importance of this judgement teaching is to show the gift of salvation coming up in Chapter 3

Summary of God's Judgement

4 Reasons The Whole World is Guilty!

1. **Rejection of Knowledge** - Creation
2. **Deeds/Conduct** – many unbelievers do good deeds and show love to others because the Law is written in their hearts. But deeds without faith are “filthy rags”.
3. **Conscience** – instinctive built-in sense of Right & Wrong, “bearing witness in their hearts”. i.e. a guilty person often can't hide it or it bothers them after.
4. **Contemplation** – judging others or defending themselves, like conscience, shows people have the ability to know basic right & wrong, but God is impartial and will judge you too.

The Whole World is Guilty!
It Doesn't Matter if You don't Think this isn't
Fair, This is the Truth of What God Says His
Justice System is Based on:

- **The Courtroom of God** – God declares, You rejected My Son, therefore you are **GUILTY!**
- **The defendant argues:** “I didn't mean it, I didn't know, it was an accident”; “it wasn't as bad as other people's crimes”; “but I've been a good moral person”; “but I go to church and do other good deeds”; “wait, I'm Jewish, I'm exempt”..
- God replies: **GUILTY!** You will be judged to go to Hell.