

2. Moral revelation condemns man. (2:1-16)

a. Knowing the truth enables you to judge but it does not make you righteous. (2:1-3)

¹ Therefore you are without excuse, every man {of you} who passes judgment, for in that you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. ² And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things. ³ And do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment upon those who practice such things and do the same {yourself,} that you will escape the judgment of God?

b. God's patience is not to be mistaken as His approval. (2:4-8)

⁴ Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? ⁵ But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ *who will render to every man according to his deeds:* ⁷ to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; ⁸ but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.

c. Those under the law and without the law are both judged. (2:9-13)

⁹ {There will be} tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, ¹⁰ but glory and honor and peace to every man who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹¹ For there is no partiality with God. ¹² For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law; and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law; ¹³ for not the hearers of the Law are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified. 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.”

Human judgment is hypocritical:

Extraverted - Seeing sin in others is our first “gift” of discernment.

Relative - We tend to be selective in our sin lists.

Falsely Justified - We mistake God’s patience for approval.

God’s judgment is holy:

Absolute - The standard is the “glory of God” - the “image of God.”

Impartial - All are accountable alike.

Justified - Our conscience bears witness.

Paul wants us to understand that the criteria for fellowship with and blessing from God is not how much we know, nor our heritage, nor our intentions but rather it is our conformity to the nature of God expressed in the Law of Moses and our conscience.

Paul will go on to point out that all of us fall short of meeting that standard.

Points that we should learn from this text.

1. Holiness is demanded by God of everyone.
2. We tend to justify ourselves and condemn others.
3. No one is excused.

Two paths to eternal life:

(hypothetical)

Paul's message in Romans

**The way of
the Law**

**The way of
the Cross**

Living a perfect life

Christ for us

By works

By faith

Two interpretations of Romans 2

The Christian
fulfills the Law

Christ
fulfills the Law

Grace and faith enable
us to be good.

Grace and faith link us
to Christ who is good for
us.

Good works are the sign
of faith.

Good works are the fruit
of faith.

The core issue is our
holiness before the law.

The core issue is our
faith before the cross.

The Point

***The condemnation of the Law is applied:
not only to my neighbor
but to myself
and to **Messiah.*****

*“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf,
that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

II Corinthians 5:21

“At the cross,
He had no sin

but yours and mine.”

“At the judgment,
we have no righteousness
but His.”