

Romans 2

“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? 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. 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.”

Lessons from Romans 2

- **A great terror:** Being judged on the basis of our performance.
- **A great treasure:** Developing an appetite for righteousness.
- **A great temptation:** Confessing the sins of others.

Lessons from Romans 2

• **A great terror:**

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.

¹⁶ . . . God will judge the **secrets** of men through Christ Jesus.”

*The Gospel is to be understood
in the context of God's glory and
holiness.*

We blaspheme the Cross
when we:

- **make the Gospel all about God's love for us**
- **make the Gospel all about our performance**

*The Gospel is to be understood
in the context of God's glory and
holiness.*

1. God will judge everyone.
2. God will judge on the basis of:
 - **Performance**
 - **Purity**
 - **Perseverance**
3. God will give no one a religious pass.

Who does Paul see being saved?

- All those who are true to themselves as image bearers of God's holiness: inwardly and outwardly -

But by what means? (Three views)

- ➡ by the consistent discipline of good works from pure motives.
- ➡ **by walking in the power of the Spirit so as to fulfill the law.**
- ➡ **by the imputed righteousness of Christ through faith.**

Could this be true?

- ➡ by the consistent discipline of good works from pure motives.

Consider

1. This might give hope to those outside the Christian faith
2. but no one meets this standard
3. unless you grade on the curve.
4. This is not consistent with Paul's Gospel of faith in Christ?

Romans 3:20

"because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin."

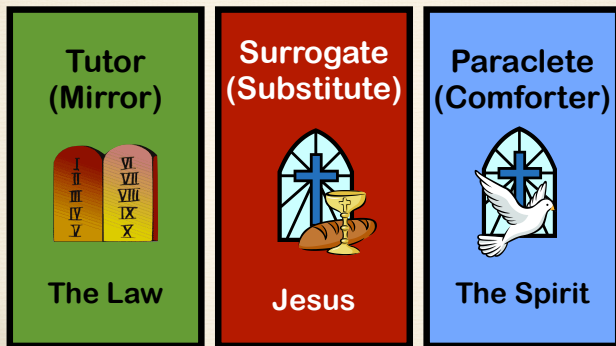
Could this be true?

- ➡ **by walking in the power of the Spirit so as to fulfill the law.**

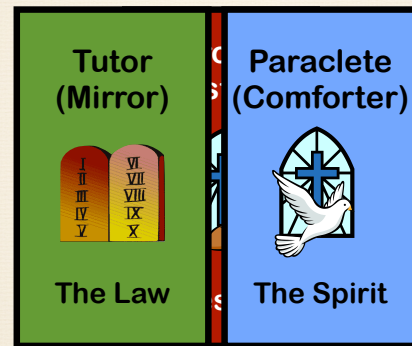
Consider

1. No one has met this standard unless you see the demands in a very "general" sense.
2. The Holy Spirit is our comforter not our redeemer.
3. This does not fit with Paul's thesis of "righteousness by faith"?

Don't confuse the ministries
of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.



Don't confuse the ministries
of the Law, the Son, and the Spirit.



Romans 7

“¹⁴ For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin.”

“²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death.”

Could this be true?

➔ by the imputed righteousness of Christ through faith.

Consider

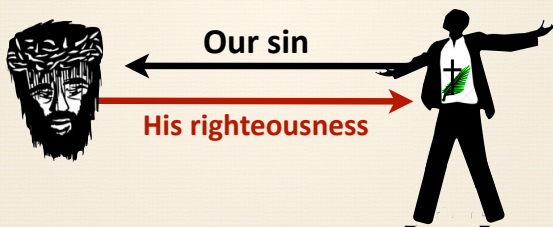
This alone seems to satisfy the context of Paul's thesis - justification by faith

1. The standard is met by Christ **for** us.
2. The righteousness demanded is imputed **to** us by faith.
3. We are judged as “**in Christ**” not as in our flesh.

The great exchange

2 Corinthians 5:21

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



The bad news:

A holy life is not difficult, it is impossible; so impossible that only one man ever lived it.

The good news:

Only one man had to live it.

Lessons from Romans 2

- **A great treasure:**

Romans 3:20

“by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.”

Lessons from Romans 2

- **A great treasure:**

Matthew 5:6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be satisfied.”

Lessons from Romans 2

- **A great treasure:**

Romans 3:31

Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law.

Lessons from Romans 2

- **A great treasure:**

1 Timothy 1:15

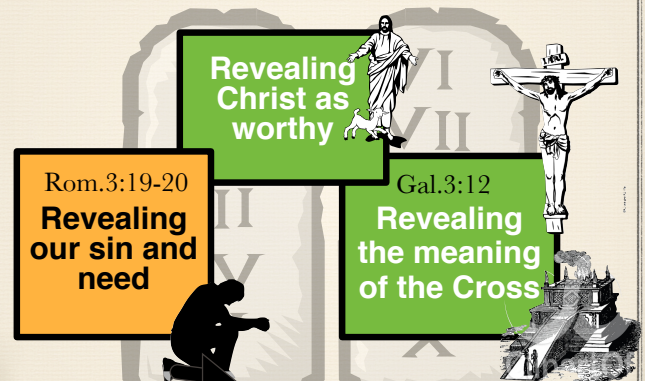
“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.”

The Law as a Tutor

Galatians 3:24

“Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.”

The Law as a Tutor



Grace has a healthy respect for the Law

Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.”

What did Jesus do with the Law?



He embraced its sanctity

“I have not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

All that it demanded was fulfilled by Him.

He elevated its standard

“You have heard it said, but I say . . .”

He raised the bar to make all humble and hungry.

He eliminated its sting

“abolishing in His flesh the enmity”

He set all believers free from the Law's Covenant curse.

Lessons from Romans 2

• A great temptation:

Romans 2

“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.

Lessons from Romans 2

• A great temptation:

- ➡ Some seek “false” security in a sense of religious entitlement.
- ➡ Pride, legalism, and a judgmental spirit are signs of deep insecurity not grace and peace.
- ➡ Our security is in Christ not religion, knowledge, or performance.

The Gospel is all about satisfying the holiness of God!

God's holiness and mercy merge in the crucified Christ making Him just and the justifier of all who have faith in Christ.

We will all be judged by works but they will be Christ's works.