

## Romans 2

In Romans 1, Paul has painted a grim picture of the Gentile world, under the condemnation of God. The Jews would have agreed wholeheartedly. Now, in ch 2, he addresses the Jews...and they will fare no better!

### Read Rom 2: 1-11

1. The issue is judging others - we all judge others, and when we do, Paul writes, we also condemn ourselves. **How different would our world be if people took this verse to heart?**
2. In v. 3 Paul writes that we judge others yet do the same things ourselves. **How do you see this in your own life?**
3. Is this phrase, "Yet for the grace of God go I" ever been part of your thought pattern?
4. In v. 4, note the 3-fold description of God's grace: God's kindness and forbearance and patience. **How have you seen God exercise these characteristics with you?**
5. **Can you agree with Paul that God's kindness (towards you) has led you to repentance?**
6. Consider the role of deeds in your life, noting what verse 6 says - that God will repay... according to each one's deeds - either eternal life or wrath and fury. We like to talk about God's grace towards us, but here, our own forgiveness seems to also be determined by what God sees in us - and how we have acted. **Do your actions agree with your words?**

### Read Rom 2: 12-16

1. Written law or not, no one is able to live up to their own standards, let alone God's.
2. Whether you know the law or not, there is a law "written on our hearts" - an instinctive knowledge of right and wrong. The Jews were judged according to the law. The Gentiles were judged according to their conscience. Neither could claim an exemption from God's judgment.
3. v. 16 - a day is coming when even our secret thoughts will be judged. By whom? - by God, thru Jesus Christ.

**Question - What role has your family, your upbringing, and your environment played in "the law that is written in your heart"? Who taught you right from wrong?**

### Read Rom 2: 17-29

1. Again, Paul implies that even if we know the law, we cannot always follow it.
2. In v. 23, we dishonor God by breaking the law.
3. In v. 25, Paul argues that even circumcision (following the law) doesn't help you if you then break the law.
4. Note the definition of a Jew in v. 29 - inwardly circumcised - again, a matter of the heart.
5. Imagine how Paul's teaching would sound to a faithful Jew who thought that circumcision was enough.

Paul is arguing that being a Jew is not a matter of race, or pedigree - but of character. Even someone who is not racially a Jew may, in fact, be a better Jew than one who is!

One reason we need a Savior is because no one can keep the law perfectly. Everybody is a law-breaker. Paul is building a case to make everybody mad, Jew & Gentile alike! It is intended to make everyone see their need of a Savior - both Jew & Gentile alike.