

**Overview**

In Chapter 1, Paul has proven the immoral man guilty of sin before God. When you trace the history of the human race, you realize that these verses are a real description of what Paul was seeing; an indictment of people which incur the wrath of God.

Paul is invoking the wrath of God on people that are rejecting God's message ...Immoral, moral, and religious are all inclusive.

**Romans 1 :18** *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;*

**Romans 3:19** *Now we know that what the law says it says to those under the law; that every mouth may be stopped and all the world may become guilty before God.*

**Chapter 2 Addressing the Moral man.**

In this chapter, we see 2 groups of people of those who do not believe...one is moral but the other is religious.

**Verse Commentary**

**Verse 1** *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.*

Paul pronounces judgment on them because they do the same things.

**Verse 2** *But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.*

We have Paul saying that based on Chapter 1, the man who is moral and judging the immoral man is also guilty of sin. Verses 1-16 are a clear indictment of the moral man as not pleasing God. This is a common problem today. We have man trying to use his human morality to please God and it doesn't work. This portion of scripture in Chapter 2 is the clearest, most concise expression of how God is going to handle the judgement of people.

Having this knowledge of the need of the Gospel, Paul centers his subject on the need of redemption which is totally aside from the moral status of man. When Webster was asked throughout his life what his greatest thought was, his answer was: "The most important thought that ever occupied my mind is that of my individual **responsibility** to God." Paul the Apostle had this same drive and burning desire to speak the truth of the Gospel.

Paul stated the same:

**2 Corinthians 5:10** *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

Judgement is according to truth. Only God knows the heart of mankind and can make a judgement; truth is the sole, valid basis for judgment. Moral people think they can judge because they are "right" in their own eyes, but the basis of their judgement is self love. We see then that God's truth can penetrate this surface of self love and pride which are the very cause of these people being blind to their own sin.

**Verse 3-4** *And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?*

4. *Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

It is ironic that human nature can think because they are right, they will escape the wrath of God; but these people actually despise the riches of His goodness as stated in verse 4.

**Verse 5** *But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;*

This verse tells us that men practice judging others as a regular characteristic and practice, not knowing it is an indictment against their own heart; it is a proof their heart is hard. We know this because there is no need for repentance in their heart; thus their heart gets harder. What a terrible allegation against man! So many feel good about themselves because they do not practice immoral actions...yet their heart is hard. We have a very shocking truth... these with a hard heart are treasuring up wrath against the day of wrath. In other words, in this process, they are adding to their own future the wrath of God.

We look at **Galatians 6:7-8** *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*

**Verse 6-8** *Who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: 8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,*

We have an indictment of all. God presents a goal by His law for man to attain to; yet man will not get there by his own merit. Paul wants these ones to know that their morality will not accomplish what they want. In verse 7, we read of "well doing" but this is not saying that the good works (well doing) are meritorious. It is God's law, but self effort will not take them there. Same principle in Verse 8 yet it is the opposite of Verse 7 in that they are contentious and do not obey the truth. What Paul intends to do here by stating God's law as the object to work towards is to set forth the truth; they cannot get there in the power of their own strength and merits.

Additionally, in verse 8, we see those of a contentious nature. What that shows is an attitude that has been long term, a life style because they don't obey truth. They have set up their own way of truth and obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath. These are ones who are contentious inwardly against truth and outwardly to them who proclaim it. We realize this is why there is a real issue from the world towards religious people. They hate us.

These verses (6-8) define unbelievers as those who are opposed to righteousness and to those who seek the glory and honor of God in verse 7. Two oppositions there....of the inward and the outward.

**Verse 9** *Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;*

We now see and believe what God has planned for unbelievers; literal word is wrath and indignation and anguish and this is often expressed by anger in people:

**John 3:36** *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

This statement in John 3 regarding the wrath of God abiding in people who are unsaved is showing the final answer of God for those whose hearts are set against God. Even a moral man cannot judge another.

Considering God's final attitude toward these ones:

**Nahum 1:6** *Who can stand before His indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by Him.*

**Verse 10-11** *But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: 11 For there is no respect of persons with God.*

Again, this Verse 10 is showing what God wants from man. We saw it in Verse 7 but in Verse 11, we realize that there is no respect of person with God. Moral man can't do this and moral man without repentance will not understand it.

In Verse 11, this is where God stands with regard to the wrong practices of man; only God's truth can know the correct path through all this. Only God's word can pierce through with the Light of the Truth into the heart.

**Verse 12** *For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law*

Paul is telling us here that God has absolute integrity because He is truth. Therefore He will judge people correctly. If a man has been raised under the law all his life, God will use that to judge. If man has lived outside the law all his life, God will judge him justly. When referring to judging in this manner, we are not saying that God is considering their lifestyles as merit, but rather God is qualified to judge everyone knowing what the man's background is. "As many as have sinned" ...the Greek changes to lifestyle, not just a mistake but a lifelong habit from which there has to be repentance. We shall see in Verse 14 a further description. This is not commendable but rather this is God's righteousness judging people correctly.

### **Verse 13-15**

13. *(For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.*

14. *For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:*

15. *Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)*

This is what moral people do and they are using their conscience rather than the Word of God ; they question God. Moral people have a self preservation so they refuse truth that exposes them.

God judges us by the Truth and it's His concept of Truth that judges us, because of His great Love for us.

**Verse 16** *In that day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

In the discussion of this verse, we must realize this presupposes a lengthy discussion between Paul and God. While in Arabia, Paul received a clear description of God's attitude toward man and how he was going to judge them and offer redemption. He was showing Paul how he wanted to judge the secrets of men by Paul's gospel.

**1 Corinthians 4:5** *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.*

This verse is telling us that if we will submit our lives to Paul's Gospel, it will speak truth and bring us edification and help us realize our lifestyle can be judged and thus be rewarded. When we say "rewarded", we are saying that it is done by the spirit which is what dictates our lifestyle.

### **Addressing the Religious Man**

**Verse 17** *Behold, thou art called a Jew and restate in the law, and makest thy boast of God*

In this section, we are going to realize that religious man is guilty of sin like all the rest because he must accept God's plan of salvation without self effort. The desire of Paul is to warn his people that their religious practices will not bring them to salvation.

**Romans 9:1-3** *I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, 2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. 3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh.*

**Verse 18 & 19** *And knows His will and approves the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law. 19 And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness.* People of Israel are so sure of their place in God's plans that their hearts and eyes were blinded by rejection. They had been given the law and God had blessed them; but they became proud and thus blind.

**Ephesians 4:18** *Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:*

### **Verses 20-24**

*20 An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law. 21 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? 22 Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? 23 Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?*

*24 For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.*

The spiritual condition of Israel was so out of order, they could not see that even the Law they were given caused them to have duplicity and deception, showing their hypocrisy. They were instructing others yet not practicing the truth themselves. They didn't realize this practice dishonored God and caused blasphemy among Gentiles as stated in verse 24.

### **Verses 25-26**

*25 For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. 26 Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? 27 And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?*

Circumcision to the Jews was the one great practice that set them apart from all other nations. It was a mark of separation and though most of Israel didn't realize it, circumcision predated the law. It began with Abraham before the Law was given. The real truth was this: They did not walk in the separation that circumcision demanded. Thus, circumcision became uncircumcision.

### **Verse 28-29**

*28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

Paul summarizes his thoughts to them by saying he is not a Jew which is one outwardly, but inwardly, of the heart which is separated unto God alone.