

# ROMANS: One Verse at a Time

## Romans 2:1-16

### *God's Righteous Judgment*

**2** Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. <sup>2</sup> But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. <sup>3</sup> And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? <sup>4</sup> Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> who “*will render to each one according to his deeds*”: <sup>7</sup> eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; <sup>8</sup> but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, <sup>9</sup> tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; <sup>10</sup> but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>11</sup> For there is no partiality with God.

<sup>12</sup> For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law <sup>13</sup> (for not the hearers of the law *are* just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; <sup>14</sup> for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, <sup>15</sup> who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*) <sup>16</sup> in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

### **2** Therefore

**Therefore** refers back to the main thought in the previous chapter, summarized in **Romans 1:18** For the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who \_\_\_\_\_ the truth in unrighteousness... In chapter 1, Paul addresses people who spurn God's self-revelation, who refuse to believe that He is, and whose hearts become \_\_\_\_\_, their understanding futile, and thereby abandon God in all kinds of debauchery.

**you** are inexcusable,

O man,

whoever you are

who judge,

**you are inexcusable,**

for in whatever you judge  
another you condemn  
yourself;

for you who judge practice the  
same things.

<sup>2</sup> But we know that the **judgment of  
God** is

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against those who practice  
such things.

<sup>3</sup> And do you think this, **O man,**

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practicing such things,

and doing the same,

**do you think**

that you will escape the  
judgment of God?

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Now, the Holy Spirit through His servant Paul broadens the scope of whom he is addressing. Many people may say, “But I believe God exists, and I know these things you describe are wrong. I just have not become a Christian. What about me?” These are the \_\_\_\_\_, the “good people” of the world in the eyes of their fellow men.

To these Paul also says **you are inexcusable**. You demonstrate a \_\_\_\_\_ of what is right and wrong by pronouncing \_\_\_\_\_ on others. You see the speck in their eye, but fail to see the \_\_\_\_\_ in your own eye. Your sin may be packaged more respectably, but inside the wrapper it smells the same to a Holy God.

Paul bases his argument that the wrath of God will fall on lost moralists as surely as on depraved \_\_\_\_\_ on **the judgment of God**. Unlike man’s judgment, which is often preferential and prejudicial, God’s judgment is **according to truth** against those who \_\_\_\_\_ the wrongs of others but overlook their own sin.

He poses a question to such hypocrites: “Do you really think that you who demonstrate that you know right from wrong by the words you speak, but who ignore right and wrong in the lives you live, **that you will \_\_\_\_\_ the judgment of God?**”

Donald Grey Barnhouse, well known pastor, author and radio preacher, paraphrased this verse, “You dummy – do you really figure that you have doped out an angle that will let you go up against God and get

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**4 Or do you despise**

the riches of His goodness,  
forbearance, and  
longsuffering,

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away with it? You don't have a ghost of a chance. There is no escape. Do you understand? No escape – ever. And this means you – the \_\_\_\_\_ person, sitting in judgment upon another fellow creature, and remaining unrepentant yourself.”

The first question asked to the unbelieving but moral man was, “Do you think?” The second question is “Do you despise?” Despise means to \_\_\_\_\_ upon, to fail to appreciate the true \_\_\_\_\_. In a question that is not really a question, Paul says that in every hidden sin, every internal sin, perhaps not seen of men but nonetheless known of God, there is a presumptiveness of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

It is the very character of God that He is rich in \_\_\_\_\_, rich in forbearance, rich in longsuffering. The goodness of God is expressed in the \_\_\_\_\_. He sends to every person on the face of the earth: food to eat, water to drink, air to breathe, fuels for energy, people for relationships. These blessings are not just for His children but for \_\_\_\_\_. **He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. Mt. 5:45**

Goodness refers to the kindnesses God \_\_\_\_\_; forbearance speaks of the judgment He \_\_\_\_\_. If God were to pay the wages of sin immediately to each sinner, we would all be quickly dead. But God often holds back the \_\_\_\_\_ of the justly deserved penalties of sin.

Longsuffering, or \_\_\_\_\_, speaks of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's goodness and forbearance. God had Noah preach for \_\_\_\_\_

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years before He sent the flood. Although God warned Israel before they even entered the Promised Land that they would go into captivity if they forsook Him and worshipped other gods, the Lord waited \_\_\_\_\_ years to bring the judgment.

In fact, the goodness, forbearance, and patience of God is so well known, even among \_\_\_\_\_, that when God dispenses justice or promises that justice will finally come, His Word is met with incredulity. People presume that because God is so patient, forbearing, and good, that He will not pour out \_\_\_\_\_ even on the most deserving. Therefore they mistakenly conclude, "God would not send anybody to hell."

But they miss the point of God's grace. **The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9** God is patient, holding back judgment and instead pouring out goodness in order to bring us to \_\_\_\_\_ and faith in Christ through Whom we can be pardoned.

People despise (underestimate the \_\_\_\_\_ of) God's goodness, forbearance, and patience when they are presumptuous about the kindnesses of God rather than responding to the motivation to repent. God's goodness is purposed to bring us to repentance and faith in the giver of every blessing!

But those who do not respond to God's kindness by repentance and faith are not escaping God's wrath, they are \_\_\_\_\_. This they do because their hearts are hard (\_\_\_\_\_) to the gentle calling of the Holy Spirit through the kindnesses done to them and for them by God. Their hearts remain \_\_\_\_\_. And Jesus said, "**I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.**" Luke 13:3.

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**goodness of God**

leads you to  
repentance?

<sup>5</sup> But ... you are **treasuring  
up for yourself wrath**

in accordance  
with your  
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impenitent heart

in the day of wrath and **revelation**  
of the righteous judgment  
of **God**,

<sup>6</sup> who “**will render to each one according to his deeds**”.

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God’s wrath will be \_\_\_\_\_  
in a single day to come. It is called The Great White Throne Judgment. The day is detailed in **Revelation 20:11-15**: **Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**

All of the \_\_\_\_\_ are raised and brought before God for judgment as He sits upon the great white throne in heaven. These are only the \_\_\_\_\_ dead, those who died in their sin without faith in the Lord Jesus, because all of the righteous dead (the \_\_\_\_\_) have been resurrected previously. The saved were a part of the resurrection of \_\_\_\_\_. Now the lost are raised as a part of the resurrection of \_\_\_\_\_.

Notice that each will be judged according to his \_\_\_\_\_ which had been recorded in “the books.” This includes not only outward actions, but words, \_\_\_\_\_, and motives of the heart. God’s judgment

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<sup>7</sup> eternal life to those who  
by patient continuance in  
doing good **seek for**

glory,  
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immortality;

<sup>8</sup> but to **those who** are  
self-seeking and  
do not obey the  
truth,  
but obey  
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indignation and  
wrath,  
<sup>9</sup> tribulation and  
anguish,  
on every soul of  
man who does evil,  
of the Jew first and  
also of the Greek;

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will be shown to be altogether \_\_\_\_\_  
based upon the precise record of the  
person's life. No one will be able to  
accuse God of injustice or unfairness.  
The record will show that they were  
given \_\_\_\_\_ of God to which  
they did not respond. The record will  
show that their own condemnation of  
other sinners \_\_\_\_\_ they knew right  
from wrong.

Then another book will be  
opened; this is the Book of \_\_\_\_\_. The  
Book of Life contains the names of all  
who by faith received Jesus Christ as  
their Savior and Lord. The people  
whose names are in the Book of Life are  
just as \_\_\_\_\_ of sins deserving of  
the second death as are these that face  
judgment before the throne. But  
because they trusted in Jesus, His death  
atoned for their sins. He died in their  
place, paying the death \_\_\_\_\_ for  
them, and gave them His righteousness  
in place of their sin.

But the Book of Life is opened at  
the Great White Throne Judgment to  
prove that these who stand before God  
on the day of His wrath, \_\_\_\_\_ accepted  
the grace, forgiveness, and pardon  
offered to them through the cross of the  
world's one and only Savior. They are  
therefore cast into the Lake of Fire, a  
place of \_\_\_\_\_ suffering and  
separation from God, a place of  
indignation and wrath, tribulation and  
anguish. \_\_\_\_\_ who does not  
trust in Christ shall go there, Jew and  
non-Jew alike, for all eternity.

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<sup>10</sup> but ... **to everyone who works what is good,**

to the Jew first and

also to the Greek.

glory,

honor, and

peace

<sup>11</sup> For **there is no partiality with God.**

In contrast to those who will be cast into the Lake of Fire because their names are not found written in the \_\_\_\_\_, are **everyone who works what is good.** Do not think that Paul here delves into a “works” theology. If you have this question, just read ahead in the book of Romans where you will see that even \_\_\_\_\_ was not justified by his works but by faith (Rom. 4:1-5). He is not saying that those that do good works receive eternal life. He is saying that everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ receives eternal life. What is the difference?

Listen to Jesus Himself: <sup>21</sup> **“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ <sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”** (Matthew 7:21-23)

The key to eternal life is not doing good things, for we never can do enough good to undo the fact that we are sinners. The key is doing the good will of the Father, that is \_\_\_\_\_ in the Son, so that Jesus “knows” us. To those who have believed on His Dear Son, the Father gives **glory, honor, and peace, to Jew and Gentile alike, for there is no partiality with God.**

**Partiality** literally means “to receive a \_\_\_\_\_.” It is used to indicate one’s basing their judgment on the face, on the \_\_\_\_\_, who stands before them. That is why “Justice” is pictured as \_\_\_\_\_. She cannot see the face of the person before her; therefore, she cannot judge based on the person’s status or appearance. God needs no blindfold, but He is perfectly \_\_\_\_\_ in judgment.

<sup>12</sup> For as **many** as have sinned without law

will also perish without law,

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Peter recognized this truth when he saw God work in the life of \_\_\_\_\_, a Gentile. Peter said, “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.” (Acts 10:34)

Both will be judged, Jew and Gentile alike: Gentiles, those who **have sinned \_\_\_\_\_ law** and Jews, those who **have sinned \_\_\_\_\_ the law**. The law is the Law of Moses, also called the Mosaic Covenant, Sinai Covenant, or simply the Old Covenant (Old \_\_\_\_\_). Generally speaking, the Gentiles (non-Jews) did not have the law to read. As has been clearly stated already, this does not excuse their sin nor exempt them from judgment because if they had responded to the \_\_\_\_\_ given them by way of the testimony of creation and their inward knowledge of right and wrong, God would have given them \_\_\_\_\_, and they could have been saved.

Such was \_\_\_\_\_ the harlot, a Gentile who came to believe that YHWH is God of heaven and earth. She was spared earthly destruction at the hands of the invading Israelites, and allowed to live in the Promised Land where undoubtedly she learned more of the God who gave the law to His people. The book of Hebrews includes her as a believer in the Heb. 11, the \_\_\_\_\_!

But most did not respond as Rahab. Most \_\_\_\_\_ the testimony of creation and other witnesses God sent, so they never even heard or read the law. Therefore they will be judged without the law and ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ **without law**.

The word “perish” has to do with destruction, but it does not mean \_\_\_\_\_. It means that something is ruined and no longer can be used for its intended \_\_\_\_\_. It is the same term used by Jesus in Mt. 10:28 when He



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said, “**And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to \_\_\_\_\_ both soul and body in hell. (Mt. 10:28)** Every person is created to \_\_\_\_\_ God. Sin inhibits our ability to give God glory. Salvation removes sin and restores that ability. Those who refuse God’s salvation cannot fulfill their intended purpose. They are \_\_\_\_\_. They perish, first in \_\_\_\_\_ and ultimately in the Lake of Fire.

People who have the law, yet do not have \_\_\_\_\_, also perish. They are called those **who sinned in the law**. They **will be judged by the law**, which means that they will be judged more \_\_\_\_\_ than those who did not have the law because they have received more \_\_\_\_\_. They not only had the testimony of creation and conscience, they had the \_\_\_\_\_ revelation of the Word of God given in His Law.

Sometimes we flippantly say “to whom much is given, much is required.” But look at the context of this principle given by the Lord in Lk. 12:47-48. “**And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare *himself* or do according to his will, shall be \_\_\_\_\_ with many *stripes*.<sup>48</sup> But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.**”

Jesus took this one step further and applied it to those who have the witness of the \_\_\_\_\_. In Mt. 11:21-23 Jesus said, “**Woe to**

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<sup>13</sup> (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;

<sup>14</sup> for when **Gentiles,**

who do not have the law,  
by nature do the things in the law,

you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>22</sup> But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. <sup>23</sup> And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

Concerning the Jews, they were \_\_\_\_\_ of the law. Hearing the law, or hearing the gospel for that matter, does not bring justification. James says, “Be \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22.

How does “doing the law” bring justification? We see the answer in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the law. Galatians 3:24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. Keeping the precepts of the law never brought \_\_\_\_\_. The covenant of the law, the Old covenant, never promised salvation. The law detailed the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and showed lost men how utterly incapable they were and are of fulfilling God’s righteous requirements. The law tells us we are sinners who need a Savior. The law points us to Jesus as that Savior for He is the only one who ever kept the \_\_\_\_\_ law.

Although the Gentiles did not have the law to show them their need, God inscribed certain standards upon their \_\_\_\_\_, giving them an internal law, a \_\_\_\_\_ law, within themselves. We see evidence of this truth in many pagan cultures. Although they demonstrate no knowledge of God’s Word

these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

<sup>15</sup> who show the work of the law written in their hearts,

**their conscience also bearing witness,**

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including the written law, they none the less reflect some of the same principles of the law. Those cultures punish thieves, \_\_\_\_\_, liars, adulterers, and even those who disrespect their \_\_\_\_\_. From what common source come these precepts? From God, who wrote them on human hearts even \_\_\_\_\_. He wrote them on tablets of stone. How did Cain know it was wrong to murder his brother? How did the rest of Cain's family know and thus reject him? They knew because God had written his \_\_\_\_\_ upon their hearts.

The **conscience** then \_\_\_\_\_ the internal law to our actions and produces \_\_\_\_\_ as a **witness** that we have violated an eternal standard. We may argue with ourselves in our \_\_\_\_\_, seeking to **excuse** our sin, but as if an independent voice were implanted within us, the **accusations** of \_\_\_\_\_ return and argue with our self-justification.

God knows all these things. Man may be able to fool his fellow man. He may even fool himself, but God knows the heart. God knows the \_\_\_\_\_, the hidden things of every person's life. **1 Chr. 28:9 says, "... for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. ...."**

On that day of the Judgment of the Great White Throne, all the **secrets of men** will be judged **by Jesus Christ**. He will know His \_\_\_\_\_. He will know those who believed He was and is the Son of God who went to Calvary's cross to pay the price for their sin. He will know those who repented of their lives of sin and turned in \_\_\_\_\_ to Him, asking Him to become their Savior and their \_\_\_\_\_. And He will know those who have not!

All in **accordance with the \_\_\_\_\_** of Jesus Christ as Paul and other faithful Biblical authors declared.

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