

WOMEN WALKING WISELY A STUDY OF ROMANS (PART 1) THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

LESSON 2—ROMANS 2

WOMEN WALKING WISELY MEETING: OCTOBER 17, 2022

This is the basic format for how this Bible study is designed. Following these steps will give us a close up look at the book of Romans. The Bible study steps can be organized as...

1. Read the assigned passage of Romans: Jotting initial thoughts at the end
2. Observe the section: Giving your own heading to the specific section(s) assigned to you
3. Evaluate the chapter: Identify the natural flow in the story as it moves along the chapter
4. Define the characters: Note the main actors in the story and give a description of each
5. Write out your questions: Look for anything you do not know and find the answer if you can
6. Answer the study questions: I will give you questions for each week that we will interact with
7. Interpret the text: Explain what the text said about and to the original audience and why
8. Apply the text: Look for the universal application that is true to the text and yet timeless

Romans Introduction

If you haven't already, take time to read through the book of Romans. When you are finished reading, jot down any initial thoughts, observations, and questions.

NOTE: You will often be asked in our study of the text to define words by looking at the Strong's Concordance to help understand the original meaning of a word in Greek (or Hebrew). You can simply do a Google search and type in Strong's #xxxx & press the enter button. This will take you to sites like biblehub.com or blueletterbible.org for a better understanding of what the specific word means.

Day 1: Review of Romans 1

Look back to Romans 1 and try to summarize the following:

- Romans 1:1 – 15
- Romans 1:16 – 17
- Romans 1:18 – 31

Briefly describe or define what is the righteousness of God and what is the wrath of God.

“For Paul, knowledge of eternal condemnation was one motivation he offered for coming to belief. He was determined that they understand that God is holy and just, and that we are all sinners under God's wrath...We cannot appreciate the wonder of God's grace and love until we truly understand God's righteous anger against sin. We cannot appreciate God's forgiveness until we appreciate the eternal consequences of sin.” (MacArthur, John. *Romans: Grace, Truth, and Redemption*. 2007. p. 13)

Day 2: Read all of Romans 2 (focus v.1)

After reading through the end of chapter 1, what kind of people are being highlighted at the end of chapter 1? Now moving into chapter 2 and after reading through the chapter, just in general what kind of people is Paul addressing—beyond them being Jew or Gentile?

Do you notice any key words in chapter 2 (repeated words or phrases)?

And moving from chapter 1 to chapter 2, we have to pause and look at the connecting word that begins verse 1...what is the word? Why is it “there”?

What kind of person judges another? Who in the New Testament (especially in the Gospels) could this make you think of? How would you define a religious moralist?

Verse 1 moves on and states that the one that judges is without what? Why is this type of person without excuse?

According to verse 1, what happens when a person in this state judges another? See these other passages in connection with what the Bible says about one who judges...how do they see themselves? How should they see themselves? Take note on the following: Matt. 5:20-22; 7:1-3; 15:1-3; Luke 18:18-25.

Day 3: Read Romans 2 (focus v.2 – 3)

What is the main verb in (v.2)? What do “we know?” What are the things that are being practiced (see then end of Rom. 1)? What does it mean that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things? (See the following verses and take note: Ps.9:4; 9:8; 96:13; 145:17).

In verse 3, Paul begins a series of rhetorical questions. What is he asking and what is he ultimately meaning by asking this question? Who can escape the judgment of God?

Day 4: Read Romans 2 (focus v. 4 – 5)

Paul begins this next pair of verses with another question. In the first part of verse 4, what do we learn about God’s character?

Define the following words: kindness [#5544]; forbearance [#463]; patience [#3115].

The words above are included in a long prepositional phrase that connect back to what noun? Why do these words connect to the word “riches”? Who offers riches in kindness, forbearance, and patience?

What does the word “presume” mean? Does the religious moralist think highly of the kindness, forbearance, and patience of God?

According to verse 4, what is the purpose of God’s kindness? How does humanity then act in light of God’s kindness?

What does a hard and penitent heart picture? What is the future reality of one living this way? What is the day of wrath? Read Rev. 20:11-15 and take note of what you learn.

Day 5: Read Romans 2 (focus v. 6 – 10)

Based on your prior knowledge and Scripture (Rom. 4:1-5; Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 3:20-24; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:8-9), is a person’s salvation based on works?

Hopefully, we agree...NO! salvation is based on what then?

However, after reading Rom. 2:6, we see that God will do what to each one?

Remember this, salvation is never based on the merits of one’s works; however, God’s Word also teaches that God’s judgment is always based on a person’s works (on a what a person has done).

There are two distinct groups being referenced in these verses. How would you categorize the two groups? What are their distinct “judgments”? What people groups are included in either group? Why would the Jews be referred to as first? (see Romans 9:3-4)

Day 6: Romans 2 (focus v. 11 – 15)

Can God show partiality? Why? See the following verses: Acts 10:34-35; Gal. 2:6; Eph. 6:5-8; Col. 3:25; 1 Peter 1:17.

How will those be judged who have sinned without the law? How will those be judged who have sinned under the law? What is the difference?

What is the difference between a hearer and a doer? See James 2:20-26; 1:22-25.

Who is being singled out in v.14? What does it mean that they “by nature do what the law requires?” What is the result of this even though they do not have the law?

What do these things from v.14 demonstrate according to v. 15 (2 things)? What is the result of the conflicting thoughts?

Day 7: Romans 2 (focus v. 16)

Verse 16 begins with the phrase “on that day.” What is that day (look back at v.5)? Looking at the next phrase, Paul uses the possessive pronoun “my” to modify the word “gospel.” Does Paul think that this is his gospel (see Romans 1:1)?

What does God judge? What word could we use to summarize what God is judging? Who is the standard by which men are judged? See the following and take note: Acts 17:30 – 31; John 8:15 – 16; John 5:22, 27, 30; 2 Cor. 5:10.

Day 8: Romans 2 (focus v. 17 – 24)

Who is verse 17 (and this section of verses) speaking to specifically? In Scripture (particularly the Old Testament), what other names had the Jews been referred to?

In verses 17 – 20, how are these people being described? Are these descriptors being used to excuse or accuse? If you chose “accuse,” you are correct. What are they being accused of?

Verses 21 – 24 get more specific in the accusation through yet another series of rhetorical questions. List out some of these accusations.

What does the phrase “as it is written” in verse 24 mean (see Isaiah 52:5)? What is this final sad accusation spoken against the Jews? What does the word blasphemed mean [#987]? What extremely strong language Paul uses here against the moralistic religious group. It is as if he is pointing a finger directly at them.

Day 9: Romans 2 (focus v. 25 – 29)

What did a very good Jew (male) who was abiding by all the laws hold as something that set them apart and that they counted as making them more pleasing to God? Judaizers in the New Testament often taught that Gentile believers needed to be circumcised. However, in these final verses of chapter 2, what do we learn about circumcision and uncircumcision?

Looking at verse 29, who is a true child of God? See the following: Romans 4:16; 3:29; 4:11.

For many Jews the reality of circumcision and all the other things listed in previous verses was all based on the outward actions. What is clearly stated in verse 29 that goes against the Jewish thought?

Read the following: Deut. 10:16; 30:6; I Samuel 16:7; Jeremiah 4:4; Matthew 12:33-34; Philippians 3:3; Colossians 2:11. What does it mean that circumcision is a matter of the heart? Who is the agent that does the work?

The final statement of v.29 is that the one who has true heart transformation receives the praise of whom? The religious moralist was more concerned about the praise of whom?

As you consider chapter 2, you need to stop and ask yourself: do you have a changed heart...a repentant heart that has been changed by the work of the Holy Spirit? Or are you a religious moralist who knows a lot of stuff and tries your very best to follow all the rules on your own? We have seen in the verses in this chapter that without a changed heart judgment awaits.

“It is not enough to hear God’s word; one must also apply the truth and be humbled by it. This will produce an inward change...God only cares about the inward sign of true change and repentance.” (<https://www.mljtrust.org/sermons-online/romans-2-17-24/hypocrisy/>)

Are you living for the praise of God or the praise of man? Anything less than living for God is worthless. See the following: 2 Corinthians 10:18; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; Galatians 1:10.

“To God be the glory
Great things He has done...
And give Him the glory
Great things He has done”