

The Way
Maturity of the Church
Lesson 19: God Condemns Both Jews and Gentiles

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We've Been)

Charting Paul's Teaching Through Romans...

- *Condemnation* - You are far from God (Romans 1-3)
- *Justification* - You are made right with God through faith (Romans 4-5)
- *Sanctification* - You are free from the power and penalty of sin (Romans 6-8)
- *Restoration* - You are restored to God (Romans 9-11)
- *Transformation* - You are to live in obedience to God (Romans 12-16)

Last week we discussed that 1) God has revealed His wrath against sin, 2) Man has deliberately rejected God and the truth, and 3) Man has formed his own ideas about God. *And as a result, mankind does whatever his heart desires.*

BIG Idea

In Romans 2 Paul will expose that both Jew and Gentile will face God's wrath on sin.

Information (What You Need to Know)

- **God condemns people who judge others, but don't recognize their own sinfulness**

- ✓ Judgmental people won't escape God's judgment

Romans 2:1 (ESV) Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. **2** We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.

“Paul was probably sending this warning, especially to the Jews who would read this letter, because they would have a tendency to view themselves as more righteous than the pagans Paul had described in Romans 1.”

- ✓ Judgmental people are just as guilty (internal sin is equal to external sin)

Romans 2:3 (ESV) Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?

The Jews may have been tempted to hide behind their "religion" and sit in judgment of others who they deemed less righteous than themselves.

■ **God's patience with the proud and unrepentant will come to an end**

✓ Some people thought that because God is kind that He wouldn't punish them
Romans 2:4 (ESV) Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

✓ Failing to repent and turn to a Savior invites God's wrath

Romans 2:5 (ESV) But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

■ **God judges everyone according to their works**

Romans 2:6 (ESV) He will render to each one according to his works...

✓ The "*works of the righteous*" lead to God's reward and eternal life

Romans 2:7 (ESV) ...to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life... **10** but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. **11** For God shows no partiality.

○ There is one view that Paul is speaking *hypothetically*

"If someone genuinely did good at all times, he could merit eternal life of his own accord – but there is none, because all, in some way or another are, have been, or will be self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness." – David Guzik

○ There is another view that Paul is speaking *literally*

"Paul is speaking here of real obedience that is rewarded on the last day—such obedience being the result of the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit." – ESV Study Bible

✓ *The works of the unrighteous* lead to God's wrath and eternal destruction

Romans 2:8 (ESV) ...but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. **9** There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek...

■ **God judges the works of both Jew and Gentile**

Romans 2:12 (ESV) 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.

"The Jew may think that he is forgiven because his people received the law. But has he kept the law? No. The Gentile may think that he is forgiven because wasn't given the law, but has he obeyed his own conscience? No. No one has."

Application (What You Need To Do):

What is the conclusion from Paul's words? *Both Jews and Gentiles are unrighteous before God and incapable of keeping God's commandments.*

Romans 3:9 (NLT) Well then, should we conclude that we Jews are better than others? No, not at all, for we have already shown that all people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin. **10** As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous - not even one. **11** No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. **12** All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one."

Man looks on the outward acts and judges them to be good.

God not only looks on outward actions, but also inward motives that lie beneath.

Because man's good actions often proceed from a heart that is in rebellion against God, even these deeds are like "filthy rags" in His sight.

Fallen man's good deeds are motivated not by a desire to please God but by man's own self-interest.

Thus, man's works are corrupted to the point where God declares that there is "no one who does good, no not one!"

So, what hope do we have? We'll talk about that next week.