

## Romans 2:1-16

### Righteousness Revealed in Condemnation:

**Condemnation of the Gentile – 1:18-32**

**Condemnation of the Moralists – 2:1-16**

**Condemnation of the Jew – 2:17-3:8**

**Condemnation of all men – 3:9-20**

### Paul will point out that judgment comes:

1 **According to truth – 2:2-4**

2 **According to deeds – 2:5-11**

3 **According to revelation – 2:12-16**

### Verse 1

*Therefore* – Refers to the whole preceding section, 1:18-32.

*Without excuse* – (1:20) Without apology or defense.

*Passes judgment* – A derogatory appraisal of another's character.

### Verses 2-4 - Judgment according to truth.

God's justice is based on His absolute truth. He is the "God of truth". There will be no bias or falsehood in God's courtroom.

*Do you suppose* – The Greek word is *logizomai*. It is used 19 times in Romans and means to reckon, to count, to calculate, to take into account. It deals with reality. It refers to facts, not suppositions.

*When you pass judgment* – Moralists tend to overlook their own flaws. Some Jews thought God overlooked their sins because Jews were his 'chosen people' and they had the Law. Note Luke 18:9-14.

*The kindness of God leads you to repentance* – Repentance (*metanoia*) means "a change of mind". This is the only occurrence of *metanoia* in Romans.

### Verses 5-11 Judgment according to deeds.

*The day of wrath* – A reference to the tribulation period.

*According to his deeds* – The moralist, who trusts his deeds, awaits a certain judgment and doom.

### Verses 7-10 There are several different understandings of these verses:

- 1 Deeds are an evidence of a changed life.
- 2 The Judgment Seat is also in view.
- 3 Perfect obedience is demanded (Which is impossible).

### Verse 11

*There is no partiality with God* – Fear should come upon the self-righteous because they will approach God on the basis of their works.

### Verses 12-16 Judgment according to revelation.

#### Verse 12

*Without the Law – Under the Law* – God does judge according to revelation. However, those without special revelation are just as guilty as those with the Law.

#### Verse 13

*The doers of the Law will be justified* – No one will be declared righteous by merely hearing the law, but by doing it perfectly, which is impossible.

#### Verses 14-16

*Work of the law written in their hearts* – Everyone from primitive tribes to modern man knows common moral principles.

*The secrets of men* – Both thoughts and actions constitute deeds. God's impartial judgment will take both into account.

### In Condemning the Moralists God makes it clear that He judges:

- 1 According to truth (2-4) - He judges in reality, not just appearance.
- 2 According to deeds (5-11) – He judges what people actually do.
- 3 According to revelation (12-16) – He judges by how people responded to the revelation they received.

**We must realize our self-righteousness can never earn God's favor and trust fully in Jesus for righteousness.**