



THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Chapter 2

"The Goodness of God Leads to Repentance!"

Intro: Chapter 1 reveals the unrighteousness of man, whereas chapter 2 dismantles man's self-righteousness; which is created through religious heritage, law, and works.

~ Observe four insights found in chapter 2:

> Insight #1 (v1-3) – GOD IS TRUTH!

> Insight #2 (v4-11) – GOD IS GOOD!

> Insight #3 (v12-16) – JESUS SAVES!

> Insight #4 (v17-29) – BE SPIRITUAL!

> Insight #1 (v1-3) – GOD IS TRUTH!

- Sin will be judged according to TRUTH; here Paul is addressing the self-righteous hypocrites who condemn everyone except themselves; they continuously misrepresent the God of all salvation.

- TRUTH - Conformity to fact or actuality; faithfulness to an original or to a standard. In the Old and New Testaments, truth is a fundamental moral and personal quality of God. God proclaimed that He is "merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth" (Ex 34:6). He is a "God of truth...without injustice" (Deut 32:4). Furthermore, all His paths are "mercy and truth" (Ps 25:10). Frequently in the psalms, God's mercy and His truth are joined together (Ps 57:3; 89:14; 115:1). All of God's works, precepts, and judgments are done in righteousness and truth (Ps 96:13; 111:8). Truth is a moral and personal characteristic of God: He is "the God of truth" (Isa 65:16). The psalmist declared, "Your law is truth" (119:142), "all Your commandments are truth" (119:151), and "the entirety of Your word is truth" (119:160). Because of His perfect nature and will, God has to speak and act in truth; He cannot lie (1 Sam 15:29; Heb 6:18; James 1:17-18). Jesus is the Word of God who became flesh, "the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). All Jesus said was true, because He told the truth which He heard from God (John 8:40). He promised His disciples that He would send "the Spirit of truth" (John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13) - a Helper who would abide in Christians forever (John 14:16), testify about Jesus (John 15:26), guide Christians into all truth (John 16:13), and glorify Jesus (John 16:14). God is truth; the Spirit is truth; and Jesus is truth. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Jesus and the revelation which the Spirit of truth gave through His apostles are the final, ultimate revelation and definition of truth about God, man, redemption, history, and the world. "The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17). (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

- Jesus condemns religious: PRIDE (Luke 18:9-14)
THIEVERY (Luke 19:41-48)
RELIGIOUS HYPOCRISY (Matthew Ch. 23)
LAWLESSNESS (Matthew 7:15-27)

> Insight #2 (v4-11) – GOD IS GOOD!
(“the GOODNESS of God leads to REPENTANCE”)

- REPENTANCE contains three essential elements:

(1) a genuine sorrow toward God on account of sin (2 Cor 7:9-10; Matt 5:3-4; Ps 51:1);
2 Cor 7:9-11 - *yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*

Matt 5:3 - *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Ps 51:1-2 - *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

(2) an inward repugnance to sin necessarily followed by the actual forsaking of it
(Matt 3:8; Acts 26:20; Heb 6:1);

Matt 3:8 - *Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*

Acts 26:20-21 - *First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.*

Heb 6:1 - *Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,*

(3) humble self-surrender to the will and service of God (see Acts 9:6).

- Repentance, it should be observed, has various stages of development:

(1) In its lowest and most imperfect form it may arise from fear of the consequences or penalty of sin. If it goes no farther than this, it is simply remorse and must end in despair.

(2) It deepens in character with the recognition of the baseness of sin itself. But here again it is merely a burden of soul from which man may seek to free himself in vain till he recognizes the great hope before him in the gospel.

(3) It becomes more complete and powerful in those who have experienced the saving grace of God and thus realize more fully the enormity of sin and the depths of the divine compassion that has been operative in their salvation. Repentance, it is thus to be seen, is the gift of God (Acts 5:31; 11:18; Rom 2:4). (Unger's Bible Dictionary)

(v6) What deeds are you doing? If your deeds are sinful, you will face judgment (verse 5,8,9), if your deeds are good in Christ what are the results in verses 7 and 10?

- Jesus said in Luke 6:43-45 - *"For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.*

> Insight #3 (v12-16) – JESUS SAVES!

- ACCUSED or EXCUSED – There are three accusers the LAW, the HEART, and the CONSCIENCE; each tells us we are guilty sinners before God. In verse 16 we will all be judged according to JESUS CHRIST, which is the standard of His life and righteousness.

- Whether Jew or Gentile all must come to the gospel of His salvation!

- Paul explains in Romans 5:8-11 - *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*

> Insight #4 (v17-29) – BE SPIRITUAL!

- LAW vs. SPIRIT – RELIGION vs. RELATIONSHIP!

- Observe John Ch. 3:1-21 – Are you BORN AGAIN!

- What is the evidence of being born again? Turn to Galatians 5:16-24.

- Porter Barrington, a Bible teacher, and evangelist wrote, “From the root of LOVE everything else will follow:

JOY is love’s strength,
PEACE is love’s security,
LONGSUFFERING is love’s patience,
KINDNESS is love’s conduct,
GOODNESS is love’s character,
FAITHFULNESS is love’s confidence,
GENTLENESS is love’s humility,
SELF-CONTROL is love’s victory!”

- Jesus said in Matthew 22:37-40 – *“‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’”*