

The Verdict (Part Two)

The Self-Righteous Are Guilty

Romans 2:1-3:8

Read Romans 2:1-3:8

1. What verses in this passage give us the impression that Paul has now turned his attention to the Jews?
2. Of what were the Jews primarily guilty? (vv. 1-3). Can you think of instances in the Bible where the Jews manifested this kind of behavior?
3. Instead of admitting that they are sinful, morally good and upright people often compare themselves to "worse sinners" and often do not think of themselves as "that bad." What would you say to a person who thought this way?
4. What does it mean to "think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience?" (Romans 2:4). In this context, to whom were God's kindness and tolerance and patience toward? (Also see 2 Peter 3:3-9). Do you "think lightly of God's kindness, tolerance and patience? How?

5. Romans 2:7-10 sounds on the surface as if Paul is describing a "works salvation." How do you harmonize these verses with Ephesians 2:9 and Titus 2:5? Make sure you pay attention to the overall context.

6. From Romans 2:12-16, explain how God can justly judge a person who has never seen a Bible. You may also refer back to last week's passage.

7. In verse 13, Paul says that it does not matter how much revelation one has, it is how one responds to that revelation that matters. Just because one people group has been given special revelation (the Law) does not make them automatically saved. What other New Testament passage also teaches this principle? Are you ever guilty of being a "hearer" but not a "doer?" How can you do better in this area?

8. Reread verses 17-22. Instead of "Jew" substitute "Christian." Instead of "Law" put "Bible." What application does this have for you?

9. Are you a religious hypocrite? Are you wearing some kind of religious mask? Think carefully about this question. Do you often find yourself preaching against sins that you regularly commit? From the gospels, what did Jesus say about religious hypocrites? If this is you, how do you plan to change? If this is not you, how do you plan to keep this from ever happening?

10. Verses 23-24 say that when people claim to know God and yet they do not follow Him, God is blasphemed. Has God ever been "blasphemed" because of your life? If so, what changes need to take place in your life so that God is honored rather than dishonored?

11. The Jews thought they had a right standing with God because they did all the right things. They did the religious ceremonies and ritualistic washings. They ate all the right foods and abstained from unclean practices. But none of this gave them salvation. From verses 25-29, what is God most concerned with? Explain.

12. Are you ever guilty of "going through the motions?" Do you try to earn God's favor through outward practice and discipline's?

How does Paul's condemnation of Jewish externalism apply to you?

13. Starting in chapter 3 verse 1, Paul explains that while the Jews had privileges, those privileges were limited. Specifically, what benefit did they have? What does this mean? Why would this be a benefit?

14. Even though the Jews had such an advantage, they still responded in unbelief. The Jews have not always lived up to the requirements that God imposed upon them. From verses 3-4, did God remain faithful to requirements that He imposed upon Himself? From what Old Testament passage does Paul quote? What is the occasion (setting, circumstance) of this quotation?

Suggested Verses for Memory:

"Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God?" (Romans 2:1-3)

"For there is no partiality with God." (Romans 2:11)

"You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal? You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God?" (Romans 2:21-23).

"For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." (Romans 2:24)

"But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God." (Romans 2:29)