

Romans 2

LG Christian Formation Class

October 12, 2025

Romans 1:16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

17 For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed - a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."



“It’s official - she’s the worst person on earth.”

“Clap if you think she should suffer.”

Review...

Romans 1:24 “God gave them over...” **LUST OF THE HEART**

Romans 1:26 “God gave them over...” **VILE PASSIONS**

Romans 1:28 “God gave them over...” **DEPRAVED MIND**

Romans 1:32

“Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.”

Romans 2:1-5

1 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

2 Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.

3 So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?

4 Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

Do we ever think...

"... I'm not as bad..."

"... at least I don't do that..."

Let us not be too quick to condemn others, because our self-righteousness and hypocrisy judges us.

Romans 2:6-II

6 God “will repay each person according to what they have done.”

7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;

10 but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

11 For God does not show favoritism.

A God will judge everyone according to his works (v. 6)

B People who do good will attain eternal life (v. 7)

C People who do evil will suffer wrath (v. 8)

C' Wrath for those who do evil (v. 9)

B' Glory for those who do good (v. 10)

A' God judges impartially (v. 11)

- diagram by Douglas Moo
“Romans: The NIV Application Commentary

Is Paul saying salvation by works is possible?

A God will judge everyone according to his works (v. 6)

B People who do good will attain eternal life (v. 7)

C People who do evil will suffer wrath (v. 8)

C' Wrath for those who do evil (v. 9)

B' Glory for those who do good (v. 10)

A' God judges impartially (v. 11)

- diagram by Douglas Moo
"Romans: The NIV Application Commentary"

3 Possibilities

- ✗ Paul is saying that people can be saved by their works
- ✗ People can, without explicitly hearing the gospel, be saved by God's grace and produce works that are approved in the judgement.
- ✓ Paul is not referring to anyone in particular, but giving the criteria on how God judges people, outside of Christ.

Romans 2:12-16

12 All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.

13 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.

14 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law.

15 They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.)

16 This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

Law - '*nomos*'; Torah

v.14 'law for themselves' - general use of *nomos*, not specifically Torah

v.14 'do by nature things required by the law'
- God's basic moral requirements, e.g. the latter 6 commands of the Ten Commandments

Law of conscience - sense of right and wrong

“There’s no one who always does what he believes is right. There’s no one who never does what he believes is wrong.”

“If you do something that you think is wrong, even if it’s not wrong, your choice to do it is wrong.”

- Dr. David Dean
Professor of Systematic Theology and Bible Exposition
Yan Fook Theological Seminary

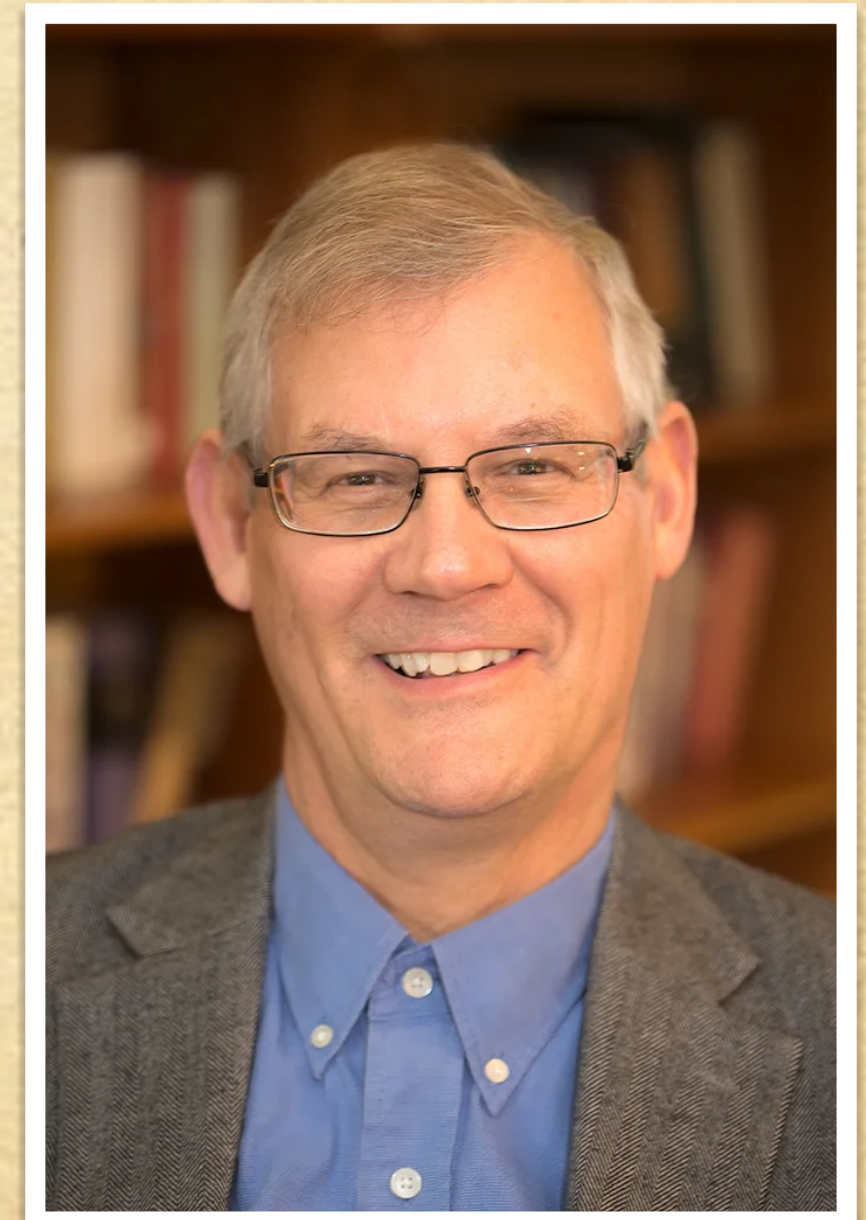


Paul's argument in v.12-16: *(summary by Dr. Dean)*

1. Everyone has some kind of law: Scriptures or conscience
2. All people *sometimes* obey the law they have. That knowledge of right and wrong proves that everyone is **ACCOUNTABLE** before God
3. All people *sometimes* disobey the law they have. This disobedience proves that everyone is **GUILTY** before God.
4. No one will ever be saved according to the law that they have because nobody does it perfectly.

“I think Scripture requires that we insist on faith in Christ as the necessary means of salvation. And I trust utterly in the absolute fairness of the God who has revealed himself to me in Jesus Christ. I am content to leave my questions in his hands and hope for clearer resolution in heaven.”

- Dr. Douglas Moo
Wheaton College



Romans 2:17-24

17 Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and boast in God;

18 if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law;

19 if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark,

20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth—

21 you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal?

22 You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

23 You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?

24 As it is written: “God’s name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”



*9 Privileges Jews enjoy
and boast about*

*Gentiles are without excuse
when they sin because the
knowledge of God is revealed
in natural revelation.*

*Jews are also without excuse
when they sin because the
knowledge of God is revealed
in the special revelation of
God’s law.*

Romans 2:25-29

25 Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised.

26 So then, if those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised?

27 The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.

28 A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.

29 No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God.

Deuteronomy 10:16

*Circumcise your hearts,
therefore, and do not be stiff-
necked any longer.*

*Having the law and practicing
circumcision cannot save
anyone.*

RECAP/APPLICATION

1. **Rom 2:1-4:** I am just as sinful as everyone else. Repent!
2. **Rom 2:5-11:** No one can be good enough to save themselves. Trust in Jesus Christ for your salvation.
3. **Rom 2:12-16:** All people are accountable and guilty before God, even very very good people.
4. **Rom 2:17-29:** A hypocritical life dishonors God's name. As Christians, strive to live a life of integrity and blamelessness, giving glory to God.

Romans 1:16-17

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