

POWER HOUR

4/26/2026

Lesson Text:
Romans 2:1-16

Background Scripture:
Matthew 7:1-5; 2 Peter 3:8-10;
Acts 10:34-35

Devotional Reading:
James 1:22-25 & 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

“GOD’S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you do the same things? Romans 2:3 NLT

Time: A.D. 57

Place: from Corinth

Romans 2:1-16 NLT

¹ You may think you can condemn such people, but you are just as bad, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things. ² And we know that God, in his justice, will punish anyone who does such things. ³ Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you do the same things? ⁴ Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? ⁵ But because you are stubborn and refuse to turn from your sin, you are storing up terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ He will judge everyone according to what they have done. ⁷ He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. ⁸ But he will pour out his anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness. ⁹ There will be trouble and calamity for everyone who keeps on doing what is evil—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. ¹⁰ But there will be glory and honor and peace from God for all who do good—for the Jew first and

also for the Gentile. ¹¹ For God does not show favoritism. ¹² When the Gentiles sin, they will be destroyed, even though they never had God's written law. And the Jews, who do have God's law, will be judged by that law when they fail to obey it. ¹³ For merely listening to the law doesn't make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in his sight. ¹⁴ Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. ¹⁵ They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. ¹⁶ And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.

INTRODUCTION

The sins of the world are always on display. Scan over the headlines, and you will encounter scandals and atrocities of every kind. Reading those stories tends to shock us and perhaps—if we are honest—make us feel better about our own lives. We might think that we have not fallen that far or that our sins are not as bad as others.

The Jews of Paul's day had the law. The Gentiles did not have the law and would face God's judgment. For many Jews, it would have been shocking to learn that they would face God's judgment and that Gentiles could be saved. Jews and Gentiles alike will face God's judgment. There are no "good" people. Instead, there are those whose judgment is satisfied in Christ and those whose judgment will be satisfied by facing the wrath of God.

1. God's judgment is true (Romans 2:1-4). In addressing Jews who thought they were "good" because they externally adhered to the Mosaic Law (though their hearts were often far from God), Paul revealed that they condemned themselves. The Gentiles may have committed adultery, but the Jews were not excluded from such sins. God's judgment is always perfect. He sees every intention of the heart. We should not think we have escaped God's judgment simply because He has not yet judged us. Instead, the delay in His judgment is meant to draw us to repentance; His patience is mercy (2 Peter 3:8-10).

2. God's judgment is fair (Romans 2:5-11). God's judgment is always fair. He shows no partiality to anyone. The Jews of Paul's day expected to receive special treatment because they were God's chosen people. However, that is not how God's judgment works. Even in the Old Testament, Gentiles who came to know God would have been saved, whereas Jews who rejected God would have faced His wrath. Paul warned his audience that they would face judgment if they continued being stubborn and unrepentant. Jew or Gentile, they would receive what they deserved. Those who sought after God and His righteousness received eternal life. Those who sought after themselves and walked in unrighteousness would face God's wrath.

3. God's judgment is just (Romans 2:12-16). The Mosaic Law was a large point of contention between early Christians. Some Jewish Christians wanted Gentile converts to follow the law. However, Paul revealed that the true law is written on each of our hearts. Theoretically, if someone kept the law perfectly, they could save themselves.

PRACTICAL POINTS

If we are judgmental toward others, we condemn ourselves (Romans 2:1).

We can be confident that God's judgment will be just (vss. 2-3).

If we despise God's patience and do not repent, we store up wrath for ourselves (vss. 4-5).

God will judge all people according to what they have done (vss. 6-11).

All people will be judged and will perish apart from Christ (vs. 12).

All people are accountable for violating their consciences (vss. 13-15).

We should not delude ourselves into thinking we can keep something hidden from God (vs. 16).

CONCLUSION

In this second chapter of his majestic letter to the Romans, Paul wrote of God's perfect judgment. Our imperfect judgment falls short since we tend to emphasize the sins of others and excuse our own. God's holy judgment, on the other hand, is always perfectly true, fair, and just. Are there any sins with which you struggle on

a consistent basis? Remember that Christ has set you free, and God has put your sins to death with His death! Focus on the fruit of the Spirit. Ask God to work them into your heart and grow your faith in Him.

QUESTION(S)

1. Who did Paul address in Romans 2?
2. What was one key reason Paul wrote to the church in Rome?
3. What type of judging did Paul refer to here?
4. Why did Paul condemn judging in this passage?
5. What is Paul's point in verse 4?
6. What is a chiasm?
7. What is the point of Paul's chiasm?
8. What difficult problem did Paul address in verses 12-16?
9. Why are those without the law condemned?
10. How are Jews and Gentiles similar?

Next week, we will consider how Jesus' perfect sacrifice atoned for our sins and saved us from the wrath of God. **"Righteousness through Faith"**

Romans 3:21-31.

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