

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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ROMANS-18 PART 1: AN HONEST EVALUATION

ROM 2:16 “...On that day when, according to my GOSPEL, **GOD judges the secrets of men BY CHRIST JESUS.**”

An attentive reading of **ROMANS 2:1-15** will show that there is **NO** mention of **Jesus Christ, the Son, Savior, Redeemer, Substitute...** **NONE** of them! It’s ALL about “personal performance” – Or as we have been saying “**the religion OF man**”

WHY? Because Paul is presenting the “**Principles of Judgment**” that mankind has established by which they MIGHT have “**Righteousness with God.**”

Unlike the “**HEDONISTS**” who have surrendered themselves to the “**gods of pleasure**”, they are aware that there is good and evil. So, **Works / Character / Performance**... these are the ways they want to be evaluated. BUT God has a different “**standard.**”

Notice that not until **VERSE 16** is the “**real issue**” presented. **God will JUDGE every person by the standard set by ONE thing: JESUS CHRIST.**

2ND PRINCIPLE OF JUDGMENT: ACCORDING TO ABSOLUTE JUSTICE

ROM 2:6-10 **HE will render to each one according to their works:**

⁷ **to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, HE will give eternal life;**

⁸ **but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.**

⁹ **There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek,** ¹⁰ **but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek.**

“We WANT Justice!” **Are you sure? Have you really thought that through? Whose standard will you use?**

It is significant that those who came to Jesus for his help cried-out for **MERCY... not Justice...**

And we are told in **HEBREWS 4:15-16** that:

- **When we come to our great High Priest, JESUS CHRIST, who is intimately acquainted with our weaknesses and has allowed himself to join in our sufferings...**
- **THAT we come on the basis of GRACE [That is: JESUS CHRIST using His power to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves... without regard to our merit / demerit]**
- **And MERCY [He recognizes our violations of His justice and CHOOSES to set the punishment aside – HE BORE IT!]**

SO... what about this **JUSTICE** thing?

- Vs6) **According to their works...** - Now THERE is a scary thought... - **works** – **that which is produced**
- Vs9) **EVERY human being who does evil ...** - **Ever?** How many **“do-overs”** do we get?
- Vs10) **Everyone who does good ...** - Just ONE BIG Problem... I **“can’t do good...”**

**** BTW:** IF you are going to interpret the **“does evil”** as if it means **“continually is doing evil...”** THEN you MUST also interpret the **“does good”** as **“continually is doing good...”** [Agathos – absolute good in value / source / production / quality / intention / result]

ROM 3:9b-12 For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,¹⁰ as it is written: **“None** is righteous, no, **not one**; ¹¹ **no one** understands; **no one** seeks for GOD. ¹² **All** have turned aside; **together** they have become worthless; **no one** does good, **not even one.**”

In **ROMANS 2:6–11**, Paul **WAS NOT** teaching *salvation by character or good deeds*. He was explaining another basic principle of God’s judgment: **God judges according to “ABSOLUTE JUSTICE,”** just as He judges according to TRUTH. Paul was dealing here with the **consistent actions of a person’s life**, the total impact of his **character and conduct**.

Each of us can **“on occasion”** do something GOOD... But it cannot be measured against God’s demand of **“all-together goodness”** **NOR** **“God’s Divine Goodness.”** We ALL fall short!

3RD PRINCIPLE OF JUDGMENT: ACCORDING TO IMPARTIALITY

ROM 2:11-15 For GOD shows **no partiality**.

¹² For all **who have sinned without** THE LAW will also perish **without** THE LAW, and all **who have sinned under** THE LAW will be judged **by** THE LAW.

¹³ For it is not the hearers of THE LAW who are righteous before GOD, but the doers of THE LAW who will be justified...

¹⁴ For when Gentiles, who do not have THE LAW, by nature do what THE LAW requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have THE LAW.

¹⁵ They show that the work of THE LAW is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them...

ROMANS-18 PART 2: AN HONEST EVALUATION

Without THE LAW... Under THE LAW... - EPH 2:11-12

Therefore, remember that at one time **you Gentiles in the flesh** (without THE LAW), called **“the uncircumcision”** by what is called the circumcision (under THE LAW), which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹² remember that **YOU** were at that time **separated** from CHRIST, **alienated** from the commonwealth of Israel and **strangers** to the covenants of promise, **having no hope** and **without God** in the world.

As Gentiles they were:

- **Separated...** - **“Choris”** – **Not a part of Him though He is Present** - they had NO access to the MESSIAH (CHRIST) who was sent to the Lost House of Israel –

Ultimately, JESUS would be recognized as the “MESSIAH for the World” (JOHN 1:29), but He came THROUGH Israel

- Alienated... - Gentiles had NO participation in the NATION OF ISRAEL and therefore from the “blessings” God had given them – *except through becoming a JEW by religion*
- Strangers... - The COVENANTS OF PROMISE were made to ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB, and the NATION OF ISRAEL – the Gentiles had NO access
- Having NO hope... - Their status left them with NO HOPE in themselves AND their religions ...which were NOT acceptable
- Without GOD... - THEIR “gods” were actually “NO gods AT ALL” –

YET... the Gentiles lived by MANY of the same “internal laws” that were enunciated in THE LAW...

The Jews COULD NOT keep THE LAW so they “DIED” BY THE LAW... - Identity with the Sacrifice / Substitute / Redeemer was “death of Self” – The SACRIFICIAL LAWS were essential

The Gentiles were “Shut-out” BY THE LAW– they had NO access –

- Even IF they did “good” it was from self NOT by God’s help – NOR to His honor
- They had NO Sacrifices to “redeem them” from their sin
- The “sacrifices THEY made to their “gods” were NOT acceptable...

BOTH Jew & Gentile COULD “do” THE LAW... AND they both “broke” THE LAW

Inwardly they KNEW their actions were “evil” – guilt driving them to pursue some way to “appease” their guilty conscience...

ROM 3:20 *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

GAL 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

Even the Demoniac of Gadara... KNEW that what he was committing was vile and offensive... and worthy of judgment. AND in pursuit of “help / mercy” he “drug” the Legion to the feet of JESUS

God’s demands for “obtaining Righteousness” are Universal... “The Righteous MUST live by FAITH”

Abel Offered his sacrifice BY Faith... *Believing what GOD had demanded, He offered the Blood of the Substitute (the Messiah)*

Cain Offered his sacrifice by HIS OWN path... *Refusing to accept what God had demanded, he offered the “work of his own hands” – a “religion” that was NOT acceptable and “bypassed” the “Substitute”*

God’s Judgment IS IMPARTIAL...

4TH PRINCIPLE OF JUDGMENT: ACCORDING TO JESUS CHRIST

THE GOSPEL... MY GOSPEL... The GOSPEL of GOD... THIS is **Paul's GOSPEL...**

ROM 2:16 "...On that day when, according to **my GOSPEL**, **God judges the secrets of men BY CHRIST JESUS.**

There will be **"1" measure** of Judgment for ALL mankind... The Person of Jesus Christ...

Respect Him? – NOT enough... or they would DO as He instructed...

Measure self BY Him? – BIG Failure... they CAN'T come close to HIS Character / Works / Consecration

Reject Him? – And FIND the ULTIMATE Rejection...

Believe Him... Accept Him... Love Him... - and THAT'S SALVATION!

- **JOHN 3:17-18** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but **in order that the world might be saved through him.**
¹⁸ Whoever **believes in him** is not condemned, but **whoever does not believe** is condemned already, because he **has not believed in the name of the only** Son of God.
- **JOHN 3:36** **Whoever believes** in the Son HAS eternal life; whoever **does not obey the Son** shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
- **REV 20:11-15** Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From HIS presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and **BOOKS were opened.** Then **another BOOK** was opened, which is **the BOOK OF LIFE.** And **the dead were judged by what was written in the BOOKS, according to what they had done.** ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, DEATH and HADES gave up the dead who were in them, **and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.** ¹⁴ Then DEATH and HADES were thrown into the LAKE OF FIRE. This is the second death, the LAKE OF FIRE. ¹⁵ And **if anyone's name was not found written in the BOOK OF LIFE,** he was thrown into the lake of fire.

IS THERE ANY HOPE? ROM 3:21-26

But now the righteousness **[that has been demonstrated by]** God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²²

the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.

For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and **are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,** ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

This was to show **GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, because in HIS divine forbearance HE had passed over former sins.** ²⁶ It was to show **HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS** at the present time, so that **HE might be JUST ...** and **THE JUSTIFIER** of the one who has faith in Jesus.