

Epistle to the Romans, 2:1-16

Chapter 1 Main Points

- 1:3 God raised Jesus the Messiah to life.
- 1:14 God requires I tell the Good News.
- 1:16 God 'saves' faithful people.
- 1:17 God is revealing his righteousness.
- 1:18 God is revealing his wrath.
- 1:24 God abandons those who reject him.
- 1:25 Abandoned people reject God.
- 1:32 God has decreed evil doers must die.

2:1 Those who judge others condemn themselves

¹ Therefore you are without excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others, for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. *NRSVue (2025)*

- Excuse: A legal or moral defense.
- Same: From the set of offenses listed in chapter 1, which deserve death.

2:2 God judges those who do such things.

² We know that God's judgment on those who do such things is in accordance with truth. ³ Do you imagine, whoever you are, that when you judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself, you will escape the judgment of God?

- Truth: Our real motives and deeds.
- Such: Many laws but one Law-Giver.
- Imagine: To reason, to argue.

Lame excuses

- There is no God and no divine laws.
- I had a just cause: revenge.
- Others are worse offenders than am I.
- I was under duress, or the influence.
- I did not know these laws.
- International law allows us to do this.
- We are only human, cannot help it.
- I belonged to the right/best religion.

2:4 God's is good and wants people to repent.

⁴ Or do you despise the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

- Despise: consider not to be important.
- Kindness: Not deserved
- Forbearance: Tolerance, clemency
- Patience: Delaying action
- Repentance: To change mind & action.

Epistle to the Romans, 2:1-16

2:5 God will repay everyone's bad deeds.

⁵ But by your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ He will repay according to each one's deeds: ...

- Wrath: (a) anger, (b) indignation.
- Righteous: According to standards.
- Day: End-time, after Jesus' return.
- Repay: quoted from Psalm 62:12 (Writings); Jeremiah 17:12 (Prophets); Matthew 16:27 (Gospels).

2:7 Whether everlasting life ...

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.

- Glory: fame, renown, prestige.
- Honor: esteem, conferred, privilege.
- Immortality: No second death.

2:9 or trouble and distress

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. ¹¹ For God shows no partiality.

- 'The evil': *kat-ergazō*, to accomplish.
- 'The good': *ergazō*, to work.
- Partiality: *prosopolampsia* = 'accept face'.

2:12 God rewards doers, not hearers

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.

- Without law: Violate conscience.
- Doers: How many obeyed flawlessly?

2:14 Gentiles' conscience is their law

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.

- Nature: Human beings, created as God's imagers, have a conscience.
- Do: All humans sometimes obey their conscience, though they also violate it.
- To: Gk, has no preposition, is in the dative case, meaning to, by, for...

2:15 God judges everyone's secret deeds

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 ¹⁶ on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

- Gospel: Both warnings and promises.
- Secrets: Hidden only from other men.