

Romans Chapter 2:1-16

1. **Rom 2:1** Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

A. **Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge**

1. The word "therefore" connects this thought with the last chapter. Paul ended chapter 1 telling us that each person knows right from wrong, and they know their sins must be punished. Therefore, those who judge others, but practice the same things, will have no excuse for their sins.

2. **inexcusable**- Gr. **anapologetos**- *without apology*. The word apology in the bible times did not mean "I am sorry". The word apology meant a reasoned defense. Those who practice the things Paul talked about in chapter 1 will have no reasoned defense against the judgment of God and neither will those who boast in superior knowledge and advantage but practice those sinful acts also.

3. In chapter 1 Paul deals with the heathen who have rejected the knowledge of God. In this chapter Paul turns his attention to the religious Jews who boasted in their superior knowledge of God and advantage as God's people. These Jews sat in judgment of the Gentiles. They judged them as dogs, wicked, and deserving of hell and damnation. However, In chapter 3 Paul will show that both Gentiles and Jews are both **equally** sinners and in need of salvation.

4. The Gentiles practiced the things Paul talked about in chapter 1 **openly for all to see**. The sad thing was that the Jews did the same things **but in secret**, where they thought no one could see. Are we doing the same in our lives?

5. **Religious and legalistic people judge others for doing things openly that they do secretly!**

6. **judge**- Gr. **krino**- **present tense**- *who are habitually judging*.

a. Legalistic people are in the habit of judging others hearts and motives. They call them wicked! They judge others sins harshly, but when they do the same thing they call it a slip up, a mistake, or a fault.

b. **What people judge the most harshly in others is usually what they most hate most in themselves and secretly struggle with!**

7. **condemn**- Gr. **katakrino**- *to judge against, to give a guilty verdict*. Paul says that if you judge others then you pass sentence on yourself. Paul

clearly says that in whatever you judge another **you are guilty of doing the same thing**. It might be in a different way or form, but the Word says that if you pass judgment on others for something they are doing that you are practicing or have done the same thing in your life and you stand self condemned.

a. Those who have put away a particular besetting sin know it was by the sheer grace and power of God. Therefore, since they know they did not do it themselves they cannot take the credit and boast about it. They also know that if it weren't for the grace of God they would be in the same situation as those caught in sin. So they will not look down on others. Those who have been freed from sin by the grace of God therefore will not judge others.

b. We are not to judge other's hearts **INCLUDING OUR OWN!** We should judge our actions but to judge ourselves is not even up to us. God will do this. Even if we feel we can clear ourselves it does not mean we are clear of fault. [1Co 4:3-4](#)

8. Many think that this verse is against judging period. **This is not the case!** We are to judge actions as being right or wrong according to the Word of God. We are to judge the fruit of our life and of others. [Mat 7:15-16](#) However, we are never called to judge someone's heart, intentions, or motives. Much pain and trouble arises when we judge other's hearts, motives, and intentions. God is the judge of the hearts of men. [Jas 4:12](#) We do not know the hearts of men. We can judge actions as being right or wrong, but we need to learn to refrain from assigning motives and intentions to people's actions. When we do this we move into God's territory. This is not a good policy to follow my friend.

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

A. Now we know

1. Paul uses the word "we" in speaking of the Jews in this chapter because he was a Jew.

2. **know-** Gr. **eido-** *to have a full and complete knowledge-* Paul uses this word because the Jews boasted in their knowledge of God and of His will that was found in the Law. They knew what things the Law called sin, however, their knowledge did not stop them from practicing them.

3. With God it is not what we know that is important, but what we do with that knowledge. If we just hear the Word of God and do not do the Word we just deceive ourselves. [Jas 1:22](#)

4. The Jews knew what the Law called sin. They knew what sin was alright, but unfortunately they did not understand the Law that revealed sin. They did not know the purpose of the Law and what the Law represented. In being ignorant of the purpose of the Law they had no power against sin and from it's condemnation and missed the person the Law represented which was Jesus Christ.

B. God's judgment

1. This judgment is eternal damnation. People are not judged because of their sins, but because of their sin. The sins Paul enumerated were just the fruit of their real problem, which was that they were sinners by nature. This sin nature produced all the sins listed in chapter 1. Jesus took all the sins and judgments of God for sins upon Himself for the cross. [1Pe 2:24](#) He was the propitiation [or satisfaction] for all the sins of the whole world. [1Jn 2:2](#) However, the only sin Jesus did not die for was rejection of Him as Savior. Those spoken of in chapter 1 [Heathen] and those spoken about in chapter 2 [Jews] both are sinners by nature and are under the judgment of God which is eternal damnation. The only escape for both groups is to place their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Sacrifice for sin. God is no longer imputing men's sins against them, because they were imputed to Christ on the cross. [2Co 5:19](#) However, men must receive reconciliation in order to be saved from eternal damnation and judgment. [2Co 5:20](#) or they will be guilty of the rejection of Jesus Christ the only means of forgiveness of sins.

C. against those who do such things is based upon truth

1. Each person knows the truth about right and wrong and that sins must be punished with death. This truth has been placed in each heart by God Himself. The good news sinners need to hear is that the death sentence was carried out on someone for them that was a qualified representative and replacement and that by believing upon Him they can receive forgiveness and a new nature and life that is acceptable to God.

2. The truth is now also found in the written Word of God.

3. **Rom 2:3** And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?

A. And do you think this, O man

1. **think**- Gr. **logizomai**- *calculate, reckon, count on*
2. **man**- Gr. **anthropos**- *a man in general as opposed Gr. aner- a specific male or one with authority*

B. you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same- classic definition of a hypocrite!

C. that you will escape the judgment of God?

1. This verse shows that natural Jews do not have a special plan of salvation outside of receiving Jesus Christ. The only way for any man, Jew or Gentile, to escape the judgment of eternal damnation is by receiving righteousness through Jesus Christ.

2. Many Jews back in Paul's day believed they were saved by being born a natural Jew and by being circumcised. Many today believe that the Jews have their own covenant with God and they do not need to receive Jesus like the Gentiles do. This is wrong! The **SAME** gospel was preached both to the Jews and to the Greeks in the book of Acts. The Jews who refused to believe the gospel and receive Christ were told that they had judged themselves as unworthy to receive eternal life . [Act 13:46](#)

3. Paul was beaten and persecuted mainly by the Jews. Why would he be bothered by the Jews at all if he preached to them they had a special covenant with God and they did not need to receive Jesus as the Savior? Let no man deceive you! There is only one name under heaven given to men by which they **MUST** be saved- that One is Jesus Christ! [Act 4:12](#)

4. Rom 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

A. Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering

1. Those who refuse grace are despisers of God and what He gives.
2. If you reject someone's gift to you, then you end up rejecting them
3. The Jews being addressed here were much like Jonah. They wanted God to pour His wrath upon the wicked heathen and as soon as possible. They did not realize that the same goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering that He was showing the heathen was keeping them from the same judgment.

4. **despise**- Gr. **kataphroneo**- *to think against, to lightly esteem*

5. **goodness**- Gr. **chrestotes**- *kindness*

6. **forbearance**- Gr. **anochē**- *tolerance*

7. **longsuffering**- Gr. **makrothumia**- *long forbearance with people*

8. When we judge others and hope for them to get their just deserts for what they have done wrong, then we are lightly esteeming the kindness, tolerance, and forbearance God has with us because He is not treating us to our just deserts. We have matured in grace when we can treat others like God does with kindness, tolerance, and long forbearance even if what they have done wrong is to us!

B. **not knowing**- Gr. **agnoeo**- *to be ignorant of*

1. They knew the judgment of God upon sin vs. 2, but they did not know about the grace and mercy of God that delivers from that judgment!

C. **that the goodness of God leads you to repentance**

1. Many think that the severity and wrath of God leads people to repent. Actually, this just leads to people trying to alter their external actions to avoid punishment.

2. It is actually the love, grace, and goodness of God that leads to true heart repentance, which leads to genuine outward life changes.

3. Many a pastor is afraid to preach grace because the people might get into sin. Actually the strength of sin is the Law!

[1Co 15:56](#) If we would trust God and preach grace then more and more people would be lead to repentance and to a God honoring life!

4. **repentance**- Gr. **metanoia**- **meta**- *change*; **nous**- *mind* - to change the mind

a. The Greek word **metanoia** does not mean to **change your actions!** I realize that most preachers have told you that but they are wrong. The Greek word literally means **to change the mind!** Now, if you can change the way you think, I guarantee you that **you will** change your actions!

b. Biblical repentance does not have to include tears and snot. Simple bible repentance is a change of mind.

c. If a minister will preach the Word of God and the New Covenant accurately then every service there will be repentance taking place. There will be a renewing and changing of how people think about God and about themselves which will in turn impact how they live their lives.

d. Most people when they think of repentance think of repenting *from sins*. What most Christians need to repent from first is their legalistic way of thinking and approaching God. They need to repent from and replace their "achieve" mindset to a "believe and receive" mindset. Once they do this then the sin issue will take care of itself!

5. **Rom 2:5** But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

A. **But in accordance with your hardness and impenitent heart**

1. **hardness-** Gr. *sklerotes*- *hardness, callousness, stubbornness*

a. A hard heart will hinder you from understanding the things of God and from believing- [Mar 8:17](#), [Act 19:9](#)

2. **impenitent-** Gr. *ametanoetos*- *without a change of mind, unrepentant*

3. A legalist has a **heart problem**. First they have a **hard heart** towards God. They lack the love of God. They do not have a heart understanding of the love of God which in turn causes their heart to be hardened towards Him. Someone that has not understood or believed God's love for them have their heart hardened against God. They see God as someone to appease and work for instead of a loving God that desires to give to them freely. This kind of person is like the older brother in the prodigal son story and is in need of a mind change towards God. [Luk 15:29](#) They lack a proper repentance towards God. The first basic Christian tenet is repentance from dead works and faith towards God. [Heb 6:1](#) Dead works is trying to do things to earn or deserve things from God. Dead works involve trying to make yourself as you ought to be. Dead works are just that- dead!. They are not produced from the life of God, but from the deadness of the flesh. As with Cain, what originates from the cursed flesh of man will be rejected by God. [Gen 4:4-5](#) People who have a hard heart are also very stubborn. They are self willed and refuse to trust in God. They always want to be in control. A legalistic person is the hardest person to minister to and get through to. They have an unrepentant heart. They refuse to change their mindset of legalism and receive His grace.

B. **you are treasuring up wrath**

1. **treasuring-** Gr. *thesaurizo*- *storing up*. We get our word thesaurus from this Greek word. A thesaurus is a collection of words.

- a. With every judgment that a legalist doles out to others they are storing up a collection of judgments to themselves!
 2. **wrath**- Gr. **orge**- *the deep seated anger of God*
 - a. What calls for the wrath and judgment of God is a legalist's continued unbelief and rejection of the grace of God in the person of Jesus Christ.
 3. It is important to know that in chapter 1 Paul is referring to **unsaved Gentiles**. In Chapter 2, Paul is referring to **unsaved Jews**. These chapters **do not refer to born-again Christians**. Chapter 3 reveals that both Gentiles and Jews are equally under the wrath and judgment of God and stand in need of a Redeemer and Savior.
- C. **in the day of wrath and the revelation of the righteous judgment of God**
1. We need to accurately define what day is being spoken here by the Word of God.
 2. Christians **are not appointed to wrath**, so this cannot refer to the judgment seat of Christ in which believers will be judged by Jesus Christ. [1Th 5:9](#), [1Co 3:10-15](#) At this judgment Christian's works will be judged and not themselves. Christians were judged in the person of Jesus Christ on the cross. He was there as our representative. He bore our sins and judgment. He took the wrath of God for us! Praise God! A Christian who has been judged in Christ will not enter into judgment ever again! [Joh 5:24](#)
 3. This also is not the day in which Jesus will return to the earth and judge the nations. [Mat 25:32](#)
 4. This day is the day of wrath and the righteous judgment of **GOD**. This is speaking of God the Father. This Judgment day is called the White Throne Judgment. [Rev 20:11-15](#) This will occur after the Millennium. All of the unsaved dead from all times will stand before God. All those who were immoral and all those who were religious but did not accept Christ will all stand before God the Father and be judged. If their names are not found in the Lamb's book of Life they will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever. Some really good people in appearance will be at this Judgment and be cast into the Lake of Fire. It says that the small and great will stand before God on this day. Some people were really small in life. Hitler was a small person. A man that kills innocent people is a small person! Some really nice people externally will be there. They appeared to be great people while they lived. We look upon the actions,

but God sees the heart and its motives. If someone does not have the righteousness of Jesus Christ by faith in Him, they are seen equally wicked and worthy of damnation whether they were immoral or religious. God will show those who were religious that their actions were really based upon pride and self exaltation which is the original and great sin that led Lucifer to fall.

6. Rom 2:6 who "WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS":

A. who, will render to each one according to His deeds

1. In context this is still referring to the Great White Throne Judgment. It is imperative that we take scripture in context! "Each one" spoken here are unbelievers at the White Throne Judgment. There will be **NO** Christians at this Judgment. All Christians will go through the Judgment Seat of Christ before the Millennium and have their works judged there. Unbelievers **and** their works are judged at the White Throne Judgment of God.
2. At the White Throne Judgment there is the Lambs book of Life. This book determines if you make heaven or hell.
3. There are other books opened at this judgment. These are the books of works or deeds. [Rev 20:12](#) Those at this judgment will have their deeds judged and God will prove to each person that each of their works were unacceptable and worthy of judgment.
4. No one after this judgment will enter into the Lake of Fire thinking they got a bum rap. They all will plainly see that it is a righteous and just judgment that they richly deserve.

7. Rom 2:7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;

A. eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good

1. Now if we do not keep scripture in context we can make the Bible say something it is not saying. Many have taken this verse out of context to say that we can only have eternal life by patient continuance in doing good. They teach that getting saved and keeping saved as to do with our works. They will quote this verse to back up their point of view. However, **we need to keep this verse in context!** This is referring to the day of God's judgment upon the lost. Many will stand before God this day thinking they deserved to have eternal life because they did a pretty

good job in life. Many think that if their good deeds outweigh their bad deeds that they will make heaven. God will reveal to them on that day that the only way their works could get them to heaven, is if they were **perfect their whole life**. If they did good in every instance and in every situation they would be worthy of heaven. However, the fact is that all of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God! [Rom 3:23](#) There will **not be ONE** person on that day that will pass this test!

B. seek for glory, honor, and immortality

1. God will reveal to each lost heart why they did all their "good deeds". It was not that they loved God, but that they were trying to get glory for themselves! They were trying to get honor for themselves! They were trying to gain immortality by their good deeds. Notice they were not really seeking eternal life which according to Jesus is knowing the Father. [Joh 17:3](#) These people did not care about God at all. They were just seeking immortality! They were trying to obtain the mystical fountain of youth so they could live forever after their own heart.

8. [Rom 2:8](#) but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath,

A. but to those who are self-seeking

1. God will reveal to each lost heart that they did what they did because they really were **self-seeking!** They sought out their own **glory, honor, and immortality.**
2. Every person cast into the Lake of Fire will be shown to be self-seeking!

B. and do not obey the truth

1. This verse shows that what God sees as obedience to Him is faith. [Joh 6:28-29](#)
2. All unbelievers are disobedient to God because they fail to trust in Christ as their righteousness and salvation. They chose to go on alone trying to establish both righteousness and salvation themselves.
3. Many legalists today are beating the obedience drum- **obey, obey, obey!** They do not realize that obedience in the Christian life starts and continues by trusting in Christ and in the grace of God which is flowing towards us constantly!
4. If you believe in Christ as your righteousness and in all that God has given to you in Christ you will live a grace empowered life that will bring Him

honor. You will obey the will of God more on accident than multitudes do on purpose!

C. **but obey unrighteousness**

1. We will be obedient in this life! We will either **obey God** by faith, or we will **obey unrighteousness** by unbelief. Humans were created to believe. It is up to us what and who we are going to believe. If we fail to believe God, by default will believe Satan. We can believe **THE TRUTH** or by default we can believe **THE LIE, but will will believe something!**
2. All the fruit of wickedness and all the evil deeds seen in fallen man finds its root and beginning at the fountain head of unbelief! Unbelief leads to disobedience and all manner of ungodliness.

D. **Indignation and wrath**

1. This will be the end result and judgment upon every soul at the White Throne Judgment. They will be shown to be imperfect, self-seeking, and unbelievers of God. Therefore, they will suffer their just punishment which is eternal indignation and wrath.

9. **Rom 2:9** tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;

A. **tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil**

1. When we think of evil we think of outward and horrible acts of violence and perversion. However, evil is anything that is not of God. This includes pride and self exaltation! God sees pride as evil! [Job 35:12](#)
2. Sinners both immoral and religious practice what is evil in God's eyes. The Apostle Paul before he was saved was the most religious man there was. He did not sleep with prostitutes, or do drugs, or get drunk. However, God revealed to Him he was the chief of sinners because of his great pride! [1Ti 1:15](#)
3. Unbelief to God is evil. [Heb 3:12](#) Unbelievers practice evil by their continued unbelief. Eternal tribulation and anguish awaits those who are unbelievers.
4. **tribulation-** Gr. **thlipsis-** *crushing pressure*
 - a. Those who do not believe God will experience crushing pressure. **Even Christians** who choose not to trust God will experience pressure in this life that seems crushing. The internal force within a believer that causes them to withstand the pressures of life is faith! When others are crushed by this life, we can be strong!

5. **anguish**- Gr. **stenochoria**- *narrowness of room*

- a. Those who are walking in unbelief will always seem constricted and limited. Life just seems to push them into the corner and suffocates them. This will even happen to Christians who choose not to walk in faith.
- b. What frees us into unlimited living is faith! Instead of being pushed around we can push back and get some breathing room in our lives. We do that that believing and speaking God's Word in each situation. We are not victims! We are more than overcomers in Christ!

B. of the Jew first, and also the Greek

1. There is really no difference between the heathen [immoral] and religious folk. This shocks both groups! Both are in need of forgiveness and perfect righteousness that can only be found in Christ Jesus.

10. **Rom 2:10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.**

A. Again this is the standard by which those at the Great White Throne will be judged. If those at this judgment can prove that they **always at all times** worked what was good they will receive glory, honor, and peace with God. However, not one person will be able to do that. Paul will go on to prove that in this chapter and in chapter 3. Therefore, all men need to fall upon the mercy and grace of God and receive salvation and peace with God as a gift.

1. **Rom 3:12** - THERE IS **NONE** WHO [habitually and always] DOES GOOD!
NO NOT ONE!

B. to the Jew first and also to the Greek- Again there is really no difference between these two groups in God's eyes!

11. **Rom 2:11 For there is no partiality with God.**

A. **partiality**- Gr. **prosopolepsia**- lit. *accepter of faces*

1. God does not favor religious people over immoral people. Both are equally unacceptable to Him!
2. God does not accept the "faces" of men. The only face God accepts is the face of His Son Jesus Christ! When we trust in Christ as our Savior we are placed into Christ and when we come to God in the name of Jesus, God sees the face of His Son!

3. The face of Jesus is what gives us the access to God and gives us the true knowledge of God. [2Co 4:6](#)

12. **Rom 2:12** For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

- A. Both cases are true. Those without the Law have sinned. Those under the Law have sinned. All have sinned. [Rom 3:23](#) Therefore, both groups are equally in need of salvation before God.
- B. **perish with Law**- those who did not have a covenant with God would perish without God. The heathen would perish because they were sinners by nature.
- C. **judged by the Law**- The Law was sent to expose sins. Once sins were exposed, it would give the knowledge that we sin because we are sinners. The Law commanded that those who sinned to be killed.
- D. Both groups therefore will be judged and condemned by God because they are sinners by nature. Both groups therefore need forgiveness and a new spiritual nature and new life.

13. **Rom 2:13** (for not the hearers of the law *are* just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;

- A. for not the hearers of the Law are just in the sight of God
 - 1. A more modern translation of this verse would say, "Put up or shut up!" Many people can talk a good game, but many can't bring it when it comes down to it!
 - 2. The Jews thought since they read the Law every day and could quote it frontwards and backwards that somehow they were right in God's sight. This is not the case. The same is true today. Many read the Bible regularly and even can quote it quite extensively, but that does not mean you are a doer of the Word.
 - 3. Mere talk will not help anyone on Judgment day!
- B. **but the doers of the Law will be justified**
 - 1. The bible plainly teaches that no one is justified by the works of the Law. [Rom 3:20](#), [Gal 2:16](#), [Gal 3:11](#)
 - 2. Well, if no one is justified by their trying to keep the Law, then how can we be justified?
 - 3. Only the doers of the Law are justified. There has only been **ONE** man that was justified under the Law. This was Jesus. He was the only one

not accounted of in the verses that state that no man is justified by the deeds of the Law. Jesus did not come to abolish the Law, or even dismiss it as not important. He came to fulfill it. [Mat 5:17](#) The only person that ever fulfilled the Law was Jesus Christ. It is important to realize that Jesus took on humanity to be our representative. He was not just our representative upon the cross! He was our representative from the minute He was born to the day He died. Jesus came and lived under the Law and fulfilled the Law in every aspect. Jesus obtained a perfect righteousness under the Law. **This is why Jesus was not sacrificed for us as a baby in the manger.** Jesus had to live his life out fully and face every temptation and every trial we faced. Jesus had to face every command of God in every circumstance of life. He had to do this to achieve a perfect righteousness under the Law. He lived as us and died as us! When we place our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we are trusting both in His perfect life and perfect death. Both were accomplished for and as us! When we received Christ we received His perfect righteousness that was under the Law. God now sees us as fulfilling the righteousness of the Law through His Son! This is why we can stand justified in God's sight right now!

14. **Rom 2:14** for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

A. for when Gentiles, who do not have the Law

1. This is a very important distinction! The Law was only given to the Jews. It was never given to the Gentiles. God did not put nor did He ever intend the Gentiles would be under the Law. Now, here is the kicker! The Ten Commandments are part of the Law. The Gentiles then are not under the obligation of the Ten Commandments. People will not go to hell because they broke the Ten Commandments- stealing, adultery, lying, coveting..etc. They go to hell because they are sinners by nature. They inherited the sinner nature from Adam. Man goes to hell because of someone else! You might say that this is not fair! You are right but it is even more unfair from the surface that you who deserve to go to hell can end up in heaven because of someone else. His name is Jesus! Because of Jesus you can go to heaven even though you deserve hell! Hallelujah!

B. do by nature the things in the Law

1. **nature-** Gr. **phusios-** *natural production*
2. The Gentiles did not need the Ten Commandments to know not the steal or kill or commit adultery! God put that knowledge into each heart by way of the conscience! You can go to the deepest darkest jungle and get into contact with people that have never heard about the Bible. However, they all know killing is wrong. They all know lying is wrong. They all know adultery is wrong. They may practice it, but they at least know it is wrong and deserves punishment!
3. Well if people did not need a written code to know right from wrong then why did God give the Law? It was to show man that he was a sinner by nature and also to show the answer for the sin problem which is Jesus Christ! The Law was given to show man just how bad he really was and how far even the best people in the natural fall short of God's standard. We will be looking at the Law later in greater detail later in the book.
4. Today the church is demanding that our nation be Christian and that it obey the Ten Commandments. We are putting on unbelievers what the Jews could not live up to! We don't have to post the Ten Commandments for the world to know that murder and adultery are wrong! They already know it folks! God put that knowledge in their hearts. What people need is not a change of behavior! What people need is a change of natures! This can only take place through accepting the Lord Jesus Christ. This nation is not a Christian nation. Now, we have Christians in this nation, but the nation is not a Christian nation nor should we try to legislate morality upon spiritually dead people! We need to preach the gospel of grace to them and get them born again. Then we can see their lives really take on true holiness! Once someone has had their nature changed and has their heart filled with the love of God they will not desire any longer to steal, murder, lie, or commit adultery!

C. although not having the law, are a law unto themselves

1. The Gentiles did not have the Law, but there was a law in them, which was their conscience.

15. **Rom 2:15** who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*)

A. **who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing them witness**

1. **show-** Gr. **endeiknumi-** *to show something within*

2. **work of the Law-** God produced a similar effect that He did in the giving of the Law when he placed the conscience into the hearts of men. The Law was given to show what was right and wrong. The conscience was given for this purpose. However, the conscience can be damaged, defiled, or even seared so that it does not work properly. This is why God later gave an unchanging written form of His Law to the Jews as a perfect standard of right and wrong.

3. **conscience-** Gr. **suneidesis-** *to know together, co-witness*

a. The conscience is in our heart to bear witness to the truth. It bears witness to what is right and wrong. God bears testimony to what is good and evil and the conscience He placed within us is a co-witness to that truth.

b. Man received a conscience when he partook of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. At this point they received a conscience and knew good from evil. However, the conscience just like the written Law, gives you NO power to perform good and avoid evil. Before the fall, Adam and Eve simply believed God about what was good and evil.

B. **and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them**

1. **thoughts-** Gr. **logismos-** *reasonings*

2. **accusing-** Gr. **kategoreo-** *to speak against*

3. **excusing-** Gr. **apologeomai-** *defending*

4. God has given us a conscience that if we would let it be our guide we would know when we have done good and when we have done evil. However, we spoil the purity of our conscience by reasonings. The human mind can justify anything it wants to do. We often tell lies to ourselves or make excuses for our actions which tend to soothe our conscience! We also can reason the other way and put ourselves into condemnation unnecessarily. Because of our fallen state, God decided to give the written Law so it would be black and white and no excuses

could be given. However, the Law was only given to the Jews. We will see why in the next chapter.

16. **Rom 2:16** in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

A. In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ

1. Again in context this day is the White Throne Judgment.
2. **secrets**- Gr. **kruptos**- *hidden things*
3. Jesus is man's perfect standard for righteousness. All actions and performances will be measured by His. God will reveal all the hidden motives and intentions also and compare them to the perfections of Jesus Christ.
4. Those who accept Jesus Christ will actually have His righteousness imputed to them and they will not be judged by their own performance. Praise God!

B. according to my gospel

1. The gospel will be the determining factor in God's judgment upon men. The question God will ask is, "What did you do with my Son?" Those who accepted Him will be justified. Those who rejected Him will stand condemned.
2. If you have not accepted Christ, please do it today. You do not want to stand before God without Him!