

## **God's Judgment**

### **Lesson #12**

### **Romans 2:1-29**

Paul, in writing this letter to the Romans, used "a style the ancients called 'diatribe' in which questions or objections are put into the mouth of an imagined critic in order to be answered or demolished."

S.K. Stowers, The Diatribe & Paul's Letter to the Romans (1981), pg. 91

#### **God's Judgment of the Gentiles - Romans 2:1-16**

1. To help our understanding of Paul's writing, it is important to know that Paul dictated this letter to an amanuensis or scribe/secretary. Who was Paul's amanuensis? (Romans 16:22)
  
2. The subject Paul addresses in chapter 2, God's judgment, is a continuation of his argument in chapter 1. Who is Paul's first imaginary "critic?" (Romans 1:18, 19)
  
3. In chapter 2, Paul adds a second imaginary critic. Note the change in Paul's argument from "they" to "you." Using Romans 2:1:
  - What was Paul's "therefore?"
  
  - What did he say "you" were doing?
  
  - What was Paul's strong warning about such an attitude?
  
  - What reason did he give for this warning?
  
4. How did Paul define God's judgment? (Romans 2:2)
  
5. Based upon that fact, what was Paul's next warning to those who would judge others? (Romans 2:3)

6. What did Paul say about the "*riches of His kindness?*" (Romans 2:4)
  
7. Define the word "repentance."
  
8. Why are people not willing to respond to God's kindness? (Romans 2:5a)
  
9. If one does not respond, what can that person expect from God? (Romans 2:5b, 6)
  
10. Using Romans 2:7:
  - What is Paul's description of this person?
  
  - What is God's verdict?
  
11. Using Romans 2:8
  - How did Paul describe this person?
  
  - What can this person expect in God's judgment?
  
12. Using Romans 2:9-11:
  - What should every person who does evil expect?
  
  - What about those who do good?
  
  - What is God's order of accountability?
  
  - Why is it so important to realize God will judge both?

13. On Mt. Sinai, God gave Moses His Law and commanded His people to obey. (Exodus 20)  
What part will God's Law play in His final judgment of both Gentiles without the law and Jews with knowledge of God's Law? (Romans 2:12)
14. With reference to the Law, what does and does not make a person righteous?  
(Romans 2:13)
15. When will that righteousness be revealed? (Romans 2:16)
16. Going back to Paul's parenthesis in verses 14 and 15, what point did he make about the Gentiles?

**The Jews and God's Judgment - Romans 2:17-29**

17. Paul now addresses the Jews using conversation style writing beginning with a series of "if" statements. What were those "ifs" in the verses below?

• Romans 2:17a IF \_\_\_\_\_

IF \_\_\_\_\_

• Romans 2:18 IF \_\_\_\_\_

• Romans 2:19 IF \_\_\_\_\_

• Romans 2:20a \_\_\_\_\_

• Why? 2:20b

18. Why do you think Paul chose to emphasize those particular points when speaking to the Jews?
19. Paul used another series of questions to make his point in verses 21 and 22. What four areas of behavior did Paul question?
20. With his fifth question, Paul went to the heart of the problem. Using verses 23 and 24:
  - What were these Jews doing?
  - What was the reality in their lives?
  - What was the result of their behavior?
21. To a Jew, then and now, circumcision is central to their identity. Read Genesis 17:1-11.
  - To whom was circumcision first given? (Genesis 17:1)
  - What was God about to do when he gave circumcision? (Genesis 17:2)
  - Why is circumcision so important to the Jews? (Genesis 17:10b, 11)
22. With the understanding of the importance of circumcision to the Jews, what did Paul have to say about circumcision? (Romans 2:25)
23. What did Paul say about the Gentiles, the uncircumcised, in:
  - Romans 2:26:
  - Romans 2:27:

24. Summarize what Paul said about identity through circumcision? (Romans 2:28, 29a)

25. As Paul wrapped up this topic on judgment, what was his final reminder? (Romans 2:29b)