

## Romans Class

### Week 2

#### Previous class:

- Jew/Gentile situation in Rome
- Law vs gospel

(Rom 1:5) Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles **to the obedience that comes from faith**.

(Rom 1:17) For in the gospel a **righteousness from God** is revealed, a righteousness that is **by faith** from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

(Rom 1:18) The **wrath of God** is being revealed from heaven against **all the godlessness and wickedness of men** who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

(Rom 1:24) Therefore **God gave them over...**

(Rom 1:32) Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things **deserve death**, they not only **continue to do** these very things but also **approve** of those who practice them.

#### Chapter 2: Jews no better than Gentiles

(Rom 2:1) You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

- Jews condemned Gentiles because of things in chapter 1
- Excused themselves because they had law, covenant
- Jews had greater understanding yet still did same things
- ***Luk 12:48*** *But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.*

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

(Rom 2:3) So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do

the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?

(Rom 2:4) Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

(Rom 2:5) But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

How can this be applied to us?

(Rom 2:6) God "will give to each person **according to what he has done.**"

(Rom 2:7) To those who **by persistence in doing good** seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. [not "I used to do good"]

(Rom 2:8) But for those who are **self-seeking** and who **reject the truth** and **follow evil**, there will be wrath and anger.

(Rom 2:9) There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;

(Rom 2:10) but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

(Rom 2:11) For **God does not show favoritism.**

Albert Barnes on verse 7:

*It does not mean those who perform one single act, but those who so live as to show that this is their **character** to obey God. It is the uniform doctrine of the Bible that none will be saved but those who persevere in a life of holiness.*

Clarification from Jesus:

(Luk 17:7-10) "Suppose one of you had a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, 'Come along now and sit down to eat'? Would he not rather say, 'Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink'? Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are **unworthy** servants; we have only done our duty.' "

- Do you seek glory, honor, immortality? Seek it by persistence in doing good.
- Still an unworthy servant, just a sinner forgiven by the grace of God.

(Rom 2:12) **All who sin apart from the law** will also perish apart from the law, and **all who sin under the law** will be judged by the law.

(Rom 2:13) For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. [nobody!]

(Rom 2:14) (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law,

(Rom 2:15) since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) [on those occasions when they do good...]

(Rom 2:16) This will take place on the day when **God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.**

(Rom 2:17) Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and brag about your relationship to God;

(Rom 2:18) if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law;

(Rom 2:19) if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark,

(Rom 2:20) an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth--

(Rom 2:21) **you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal?**

(Rom 2:22) **You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?**

(Rom 2:23) **You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?**

(Rom 2:24) **As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."**

Rom 3:1-8 Paul deals with possible Jewish objections to his teaching

- What advantage to being a Jew / circumcision?
- Will our lack of faith cause God to be unfaithful to his promise to Abraham?
- Do evil so good (showing God's righteousness) will result?

(Rom 3:9) What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that **Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin.**

(Rom 3:10) As it is written:

"There is no one righteous, not even one; [Psalm 53:3]

(Rom 3:11) there is no one who understands,  
no one who seeks God.

(Rom 3:12) All have turned away,  
they have together become worthless;  
there is no one who does good,  
not even one." [Psalm 14:1-3]

(Rom 3:13) "Their throats are open graves;  
their tongues practice deceit." [Psalm 5:9]

"The poison of vipers is on their lips." [Psalm 140:3]

(Rom 3:14) "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." [Psalm 10:7]

(Rom 3:15) "Their feet are swift to shed blood;

(Rom 3:16) ruin and misery mark their ways,

(Rom 3:17) and the way of peace they do not know." [Isa 59:7-8]

(Rom 3:18) "There is no fear of God before their eyes." [Psalm 36:1]

(Rom 3:19) Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.

(Rom 3:20) Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

“We are Abraham's descendants!” (John the Baptist)

(Mat 3:9) And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

We can be like that...

- But I don't do those "big sins" any more...?
- But I was baptized...?
- But I read my Bible every day...?
- But I fast twice a week... ?
- But I share my faith... ?
- But I converted X people... ?
- I remember my glory days...?

None of that makes us righteous!

(Luk 18:9-14) To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about<sup>[4]</sup> himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, '**God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**' "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

- Persistence in doing good
- See our own unworthiness (unworthy servants)

Next class: Righteousness from God.