

Romans Chapter 2 Part 2

Rom 2:7-10 To them who by patient continuance in well doing **seek for** glory and honour and immortality, **eternal life: 8** But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, **but obey unrighteousness**, indignation and wrath, **9 Tribulation and anguish**, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; **10** But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

In the past God dealt with man according to his deeds and conscience - vs.6 “who will render to every man **according to his deeds.**” **15** “the **law written in their hearts, their conscience** also bearing witness”. God sees the heart (1Sam.16:7). He knows what man is seeking for (vs.7) and why. Those who sincerely sought God by patient continuance in well doing were granted eternal life. But those who willingly obeyed unrighteousness, eternal damnation. Examples of this can be found in Gen.20:6, 2Ch.16:9. God sees and provides – Gentiles Ac.13:48, Samaritan woman (Jn.4:4), Ethiopian eunuch (Ac.8:28), Cornelius (Ac.10:2), Lydia (Ac.16:14), Apollos (Ac.19:26, 19:1-5)

Rom 2:11-15 For there is no respect of persons with God. **12** For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; **13** (For not the hearers of the law *are* just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. **14** For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, **do by nature** the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, **are a law unto themselves: 15** Which shew the work of the **law written in their hearts, their conscience** also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;) **16** In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

God declares the conscience to be equal to the law regarding accountability. The saying, “let your conscience be your guide” is good advice – that is, if you haven’t seared or defiled your conscience (1Tim.4:2, Tit.1:15).

But God’s approach to the heathen seems to have changed in the N.T. because of the resurrection. Repentance and belief in Jesus are now commanded, Acts 17:30-31.

Rom 2:17-20 Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God...

After Abraham, there were only two kinds of people in the world, **Jews** (God’s people, Ex.3:7) and **Gentiles** (everyone else). Paul now turns his attention to the Jews (as he is prone to do) and points out their hypocrisy and accountability to the Savior (3:21-22).

Rom 2:21-24 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? **22** Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? **23** Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through **breaking the law dishonourest** thou God? **24** For **the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you**, as it is written. **25** For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.

The Jews had been given the law of God (3:1-2) and yet they “dishonored” the law by not keeping it. We can certainly make personal application here. We might say, “Thou therefore which claimest to have the perfect bible, readest thou the bible?” “...claimest to have the mind of Christ, studieth thou the bible?” “... claimest to have the answer to all of man’s problems, preachest thou the bible?” If not, can we then truly call ourselves bible believers?

Ro 2:25-29 For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. **26** Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? **27** And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law? **28** For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: **29** But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and **circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and** not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.

Paul now states a biblical fact that any studious Jew should know. Circumcision only counts “if thou keep the law”.

Duet.10:15-16 states, “Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, *even* you **above all people**, as *it is* this day. **16** Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.”

Paul says in vs.29 that a gentile can be a Jew inwardly through circumcision of the heart. This of course is in reference to N.T. salvation as seen in **Gal.6:15-16** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, **but a new creature. 16** And as many as walk according to this rule, peace *be* on them, and mercy, and upon **the Israel of God**. Paul refers to N.T. believers as the Israel of God. This circumcision is a spiritual operation made without hands as described in Col.2:11-12. Today “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: **for ye are all one in Christ Jesus**. And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” **Gal.3:28-29**

We are the church. **1Cor. 10:32** Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: