

Comments About Romans 2

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 20, 2018.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Romans. This week, we will talk about chapter 2.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Romans.

God’s righteous judgment

In chapter 2, the apostle Paul discussed the righteous judgment of God (Romans 2:1-16).

- He warned about the foolishness of judging others (verse 1).

Romans 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.”

- He warned about the habit of people doing the same behaviors for which they judge other people (verses 2-3).
- He contrasted repentance (verse 4) with an impenitent heart (verse 5).
- He mentioned a concept found in both the Old Testament (Psalm 62:12) and New Testament (Matthew 16:27)—will render to each person according to his deeds (verse 6).
- He contrasted the good future of glory, honor and peace for those who do good (verses 7 and 10) with the bad future of indignation, wrath, tribulation and anguish for those who do evil (verses 8-9).

Jews had first access

Last week when we discussed Romans 1:16, we mentioned one of the important phrases in the letter—“for the Jew first and also for the Greek”—and mentioned that it is repeated later in the letter.

The book of Romans stresses that the Jews had first access to God.

The story in the book of Acts about the Holy Spirit coming upon Jews and gentiles at different times reinforces the concept of early access. Consider Acts 2:1-4 and Acts 10:44-48.

Consider that the phrase is designed to show that the Jews were not better than the gentiles.

Notice Romans 3:9.

Romans 3:9—"What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin."

- The bad consequences were to the Jew first and also to the Greek (verses 8-9) and the good consequences were to the Jew first and also to the Greek (verse 10).
- There is no partiality with God (Romans 2:11).
- Jews and gentiles both sin (verses 12-16).

Warning to Jews

Paul proceeded to warn the Jews to consider their own behavior before criticizing the gentiles (verses 17-24).

Romans 2:17—"Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God."

Romans 2:21-23—"You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, 'Do not commit adultery,' do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?"

Spiritual circumcision

Paul mentioned that physical circumcision was not as valuable as spiritual circumcision (verses 25-29).

Notice verse 29.

Romans 2:29—"But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God."