

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

¹⁷ For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

(Romans 1:16-17)

Romans 1:18-3:20

- The revelation of God's wrath and righteous judgment against the unrighteousness of all mankind
 - 1:18-32: Paul's indictment of Gentile (pagan) peoples ("without excuse")

Therefore, without excuse are you, O man, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

² And we know that the judgment of God upon those who practice such things is according to truth.

³ But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same *yourself*, that you will escape the judgment of God?

⁴ Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

⁵ But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

(Romans 2:1-5)

Romans 2:1-5

Q: Who is the "you"?

- the morally self-righteous person who condemns others while practicing the same things
- Paul intends his readers to see themselves at some level in his words – our tendency to self-righteousness!

Romans 2:1-5

Q: What is the connection with the context?

- "therefore" – all who practice evil, even those who condemn others, are without excuse and condemned by God
- 2:1-16 is a hinge section that highlights the inexcusability of all people and the impartiality of God's judgment

The Self-Righteous Judge

1. Without Excuse

- the self-righteous judge is self-condemning – he speaks against himself in judging others
- he condemns others while practicing the “same things” – the same types of evil in different forms and degrees

The Self-Righteous Judge

2. Without Escape

- God's judgment will be according to truth – what a person actually does
- the self-righteous moralist deceives himself that he will escape God's judgment