

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

Romans 2

Lesson 3

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What insight about the Gospel did you receive from your study last week?

2. Can any man be truly good without Jesus? The answer is no! David the psalmist rightly exclaimed, *My goodness is nothing apart from You* (Psalm 16:2). In Romans 1 Paul wrote about the obvious guilt of the worldly man. However, in Romans 2, Paul took his argument deeper to show the guilt of both the moral man and self-righteous Jew without Jesus Christ. Like a great lawyer, Paul built his case on the need of all humanity for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is only by means of the Gospel that men can escape the wrath of God, have their sins forgiven, thoughts purified, lives redeemed, and be made truly righteous. From the passages below note the guilt of all men before God:
 - a. Romans 2:1-11

 - b. Romans 2:12-16

 - c. Romans 2:17-24

 - d. Romans 2:25-29

3. Ask God to confirm to your heart your personal need for the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering.

Romans 2:4

SECOND DAY: Read Romans 2:1-11

1. In Romans 1 Paul demonstrated the guilt of all mankind before a righteous God. In Romans 2 he proved that even the self-righteous, who judged others, were condemned. What did he say to those who *judge*? Romans 2:1a
 - a. Why does the self-righteous man have no right to *judge*? Romans 2:1b
2. Use Romans 2:2 to describe the *judgment of God*.
3. The Jews in particular thought they had a special standing with God. In fact, some rabbis taught that God would judge Jews with a different standard than Gentiles. In light of this Paul asked in Romans 2:3 (NLT), *Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you do the same things*? What was wrong with their reasoning?
4. By depending on their own righteousness, what did these people *despise*? Romans 2:4a
 - a. Rather than *despise*, why do you value these attributes of God's character?
 - b. According to Romans 2:4b, what is God's *goodness* intended to do?
 - (1) Share a time the *goodness of God* led you to repentance.
5. Use Romans 2:5 to comment on the results of having a hard and *impenitent heart*.
6. Romans 2:6 tells us that God *will render to each one according to his deeds*. Use Romans 2:7-10 to remark on what this entails for those who:
 - a. Continue *in doing good* (verses 7, 10)
 - b. Obey *unrighteousness* (verses 8-9)
7. Paul's statement in Romans 2:11 indicated that all mankind, Jew and Gentile, would be judged equally by God. Why was this important to emphasize?
8. How has today's study enhanced your appreciation for the Gospel?

THIRD DAY: Read Romans 2:12–16

1. Romans 2:12 (NLT) says, *When the Gentiles sin, they will be destroyed, even though they never had God's written law. And the Jews, who do have God's law, will be judged by that law when they fail to obey it.* Connect this with Paul's statement in Romans 2:11 and share your thoughts.
2. From Romans 2:13 note and comment on the distinction Paul made between the *hearers* and *doers of the law*.
 - a. Link this with James 1:22–25. What do you see?
 - (1) Why is it essential to respond to the Gospel when you hear it?
3. Read Romans 2:14–15 (NLT) and answer the following questions. *Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know His law when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.*
 - a. Although Gentiles do not have *God's written law*, how do they show that they know it?
 - b. How does our *conscience* validate *God's law*?
 - (1) Clearly, man inherently knows what is right and true. How does this substantiate Paul's argument concerning man's accountability in Romans 1:18–21?
4. *According to the Gospel*, what will God ultimately do? Romans 2:16
 - a. Why is this a sobering reminder to the self-righteous? See Matthew 23:25–28.
5. Why do the self-righteous need the Gospel as much as anyone else?

FOURTH DAY: Read Romans 2:17–24

1. In Romans 2:17–20 Paul listed the claims made by those who are *called a Jew*. Note these claims:
 - a. Verse 17
 - b. Verse 18
 - c. Verse 19
 - d. Verse 20
 - (1) Compare these self-righteous claims with Jesus' parable in Luke 18:9–14. What do you see?
2. From Romans 2:21a record Paul's challenge to those Jews who made such claims.
 - a. Paul continued by challenging the Jews concerning specific conduct such as theft, *adultery*, and idolatry (Romans 2:21b–22). He then declared, *You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it* (Romans 2:23 NLT). Why would this challenge those who made such lofty claims?
 - (1) These men failed to realize that sin takes place in the heart as well as in actions. Comment on what Jeremiah 17:9–10 and Matthew 15:19 say about this.
 - b. What was the result of their conduct? Romans 2:24
 - (1) How is this a warning to you concerning:
 - (a) Moralism
 - (b) Spiritual pride
 - (c) Hypocrisy
 - (d) Your witness before unbelievers
3. In what way has today's study ministered to you about your own heart?

FIFTH DAY: Read Romans 2:25–29

1. In Romans 2:25–29 Paul addressed *circumcision*. To the Jews this was a source of pride and distinction from other nations. In fact, some Jews believed outward circumcision guaranteed salvation. What did Paul declare about *circumcision* in Romans 2:25?
 - a. *Therefore*, what else did Paul conclude? Romans 2:26
 - (1) Paul was reiterating the fact that inward motivations and actions are more important than outward appearances. *Circumcision* was meant to be an outward demonstration of an inward heart change toward God. Note what the following Scriptures say about this:
 - (a) Deuteronomy 10:16
 - (b) Deuteronomy 30:6
 - (c) Jeremiah 4:4
 - (d) Colossians 2:11
 - (2) Consider Warren W. Wiersbe's summary of Paul's argument in Romans 2:27: *An obedient Gentile with no circumcision would be more acceptable than a disobedient Jew with circumcision. In fact, a disobedient Jew turns his circumcision into uncircumcision in God's sight, for God looks on the heart.* What does this convey to you about outward appearances?
 - (a) Link this with 1 Corinthians 7:19, and share your thoughts.
2. Read Romans 2:28–29 (NLT) and answer the following questions. *For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision. No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by God's Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people:*
 - a. How did Paul describe a *true Jew*?
 - b. What characterizes a *changed heart*?
3. Conclude your study today with David's prayer in Psalm 51:10. Take a moment to make this prayer your own.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. According to Paul, why do the following people need the Gospel:
 - a. Blatant sinners (Romans 1:18-32)
 - b. Respectable sinners – outwardly good people (Romans 2:1-11)
 - c. Jews (Romans 2:12-29)
 2. Review Romans 2:4. Share a way you have experienced the *riches* of God's:
 - a. *Goodness*
 - b. *Forbearance*
 - c. *Longsuffering*
- (1) How do these evidences testify to the power of the Gospel in your life?

The goodness of God leads you to repentance.
Romans 2:4