### Romans

## Chapter 2

1Therefore, you’re defenseless, O man, if you’re someone who judges others!  
  
For when you judge others you’re condemning yourselves, since you’re doing the very same things that you judge [to be wrong in them]… 2And we know that God’s judgment on those who do such things is righteous.  
  
3So when you judge those who do the things that you’re also doing, do you think that you’ll somehow escape God’s judgment? 4Or are you taking the loving care, the patience, and the tolerance that He’s shown towards you for granted?  
  
What you should really understand is that these [fine] qualities of God are just trying to lead you towards repentance!  
  
5But now, because of your hard and unrepentant hearts, you’re storing away a treasure of rage upon yourselves that [will come] in the day of fury – when the righteous decisions of God will be seen 6and He...  
  
 ‘...pays everyone back for the things they’ve been doing.’ [Psalm 62:12]  
  
  
7Now, those who do good things are searching for age-long life, as well as glory, honor, and incorruption.  
  
8But for the ones who like to argue and disobey the truth by being unrighteous, there’ll just be wrath, anger, 9and some very hard times!  
  
Yes, this is what’ll come into the lives of all those who work at doing what’s bad (to the Jews first and then to the Greeks).  
  
10However, there’ll be glory, honor, and peace for all those who are working at doing what’s good (for the Jews first and then for the Greeks), 11because God makes no distinction between them!  
  
  
12Indeed, all people who are without the [Jewish] Law [of Moses] and are sinning, will perish without the Law... While those who are under the Law, and still sin, are condemned by the Law!  
  
13For God doesn’t consider anyone righteous who just listens to the Law… Only those who obey the Law will be found righteous.  
  
14However, when people of the nations who don’t have the [Jewish] Law naturally obey things in the Law, they not only have the Law, they are the Law!  
  
15For when they’re obeying the Laws, they show that it’s written in their hearts and it’s working with their consciences, which examine their thoughts.  
  
So it’s [their own hearts] that will either accuse them or defend them 16in the Day that God judges the hidden things of men (by this good news that I’m preaching through the Anointed Jesus).  
  
  
17So if you’re called ‘a Jew’ and you’re resting on the Law and taking pride in your God... 18And if you understand His Will and all the excellent instructions of the Law... 19And you consider yourself to be a guide to the blind and a light to those in darkness 20(that you’re someone who can instruct the unreasonable and teach babies)... And if you fully grasp all the knowledge and truth in the Law…  
  
21Well then, do you, who are teaching others, also teach yourselves?  
  
Do you who preach, Don’t steal, steal?  
22Do you who teach, Don’t commit adultery, commit adultery?  
Do you who teach others to be disgusted with idols, rob temples?  
23Do you who teach others pride in [God’s] Laws, dishonor God by breaking the Law?  
  
24For it’s written:  
  
 ‘God’s Name is being blasphemed among the nations because of you people!’ [Isaiah 52:5, LXX]  
  
25Of course, circumcision is good… That is, as long as you’re obeying the Law.  
  
But if you’re a person who breaks the Law, then your circumcision has really become uncircumcision.  
  
26However, if an uncircumcised person obeys the righteous requirements of the Law... Won’t his uncircumcision be considered circumcision?  
  
27Therefore, if those who are uncircumcised obey the Law naturally (except for what it says about being circumcised), they’re really judging those of you who break the Law!  
  
28As you can see, being a Jew isn’t something that’s visible, for [true] circumcision isn’t something that can be seen in the flesh.  
  
29Rather, being a Jew is something that’s inside of you, since circumcision comes from the spirit of the heart, not from something that’s written…  
  
It’s not there to be praised by men, but by God!