

Romans 2 "Step by Step"

Step by Step is a verse by verse study through the Bible. With this approach we trust that God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, will emphasize specific points and passages to each person; training us in the Word and teaching us how to live with purpose and identity.

Chapter 2 reveals a shift in thought; knowing that 'moralists' and 'good people' would elevate themselves above the sinners in chapter 1. God now addresses those who think they are, for the most part, pretty good people.

V1- The moralist who could 'weigh the facts' concerning someone else confirms they know the difference between right and wrong. The problem is that they did not apply this 'judging' to themselves.

V2- Remember God judges according to truth! He weighs action and intent, knowing the wrongs that have been done and the real reason we did them! He judges *according to truth*; according to the facts, the realities which are, every relevant thing is known by Him. He needs no jury to decide any case. He is Himself- Witness, Jury, Judge. (Hebrews 4:12-16)

V3- To the moralist or self-righteous; What makes you better than those 'sinners'? Why should you escape His judgement?

V4- *despise*= Think little of, see no value in, foolishly ignore. *Riches*= Great value, the true worth of:

His goodness= gentleness, kindness *His forbearance*= self-restraint, tolerance

His longsuffering= patience, 'slowness in avenging wrongs'

Some people make defiant statements like; "If you are there, strike me down!" Then when God mercifully, patiently, tolerates their defiance they conclude; "See, there is no God." It is the same as saying, "Because He did not react the way I would, He must not be there."

Some Christians even continue in sin, despising His mercy; "He has not punished me for my sin, He must be okay with it." The proper understanding would be to recognize His mercy and patience, then *repent* because of His *goodness*.

V5,6- Because of a resistant heart and unrepentant attitude an unbeliever builds a case against themselves. Embedded within this is a warning to believers as well for we will give account to God for what we have done with what He has given us. (2Corinthians 5:10,11)

V7-11 "In this particular dispensation God deals equally with all men, Jews and Gentiles. If you are following Christ, He'll bless and reward you. If you harden your heart against Him by following your own path, then God will judge you." Pastor Chuck Smith

V11-15 God does not favor one person over another. All men are accountable for what God has given them; the Jew is judged according to what he has done with the written law received, the Gentile (Non-Jew) is judged according to what he has done with what God has written on his heart. (Romans 1:18, 19, 2:2).

V16- Men will be judged for what they have done with truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ; those who have believed in Him which is revealed in a life of faith will spend eternity with Jesus. Those who have rejected the gospel and therefore live a life for themselves will be separated from Jesus for all of eternity, which is what hell will be.

V17-24 God is now 'calling out' the Jews who boasted in the Law which they had received but did not practice the instruction they received. Some carried themselves as the 'moral police' giving instruction and telling others what to do all the while exempting themselves from obeying. The Jews who boasted in the Law misrepresented God and did not walk in obedience to God. Jesus, in Matthew 23, issued a sharp rebuke to the scribes and Pharisees who lived and taught this hypocritical lifestyle.

(The reality was that the purpose of the Law was to teach us that we need to humbly come to God in order to fulfill God's requirements for righteousness. Galatians 3:24, 25)

V25-29 Circumcision was symbolic of denying or cutting away the flesh in commitment to God. This 'outward' act was to be supported by a manner of living that is consistent with devotion to God. There is a similarity in the church where some get baptized to 'be right' with God. Their lifestyle does not change because their confidence is in the act of baptism. These verses speak to the attitude of the Jews who put confidence in the act of circumcision but their hearts were far from following God.
