

## Romans 2: 1-16

### Introduction.

- A. Written from Corinth in the winter of 56/57.
- B. Paul expected to visit Rome in the near future on his way to Spain.
- C. A thorough explanation of Christian theology.
- D. Has shown that the wicked are condemned.
  - 1. They have suppressed the truth by their wickedness.
  - 2. They have exchanged the truth of God for a lie.
  - 3. They have worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator.
  - 4. Their rejection of God has led to a life of wickedness.
  - 5. They are without excuse.

Paul now shows, in three ways, that the moral man is also a sinner.

### I. The moral man is a sinner because he does what he knows is wrong (1-4).

- A. He rightly condemns the behavior of the wicked.
  - 1. The wicked man approves of wickedness.
  - 2. The moral man condemns wickedness for what it is.
- B. The moralist condemns himself in his judging.
  - 1. He knows what is wrong.
  - 2. He does what he condemns.
  - 3. He is also without excuse (cf. 1:20)
  - 4. Illustration in Lk. 18: 9-14.

C. God's judgement is based on truth.

1. The moralist's judgement is based on hypocrisy.
2. How much more will God's judgment fall on the moralist?
  - a. The moralist has known God's tolerance toward him.
  - b. Yet he has hardened his heart to God.

D. None of us is free from this trap.

II. The moral man is a sinner because he is depending on his good life for salvation (5-11).

A. This has made him stubborn to refuse God.

B. It causes him to store up wrath in the day of wrath.

C. God will reward each man's works accordingly.

1. The work of the righteous.

- a. Seeking the things of heaven.
- b. Living for God.

2. The work of the unrighteous.

- a. Self-seeking
  - i. Reject the truth.
  - ii. Follow evil.
- b. Living for self.

D. God shows no favoritism.

E. Ultimately, salvation requires self-surrender.

III. The moral man is a sinner because he fails to do what he knows to be right (12-16).

- A. God's judgment will be based on the standard of the individual.
  - 1. Whether he knows the law of Moses.
  - 2. Whether he does not know the law of Moses.
- B. Obedience to God's will leads to righteousness.
  - 1. Contrasted to head knowledge only.
  - 2. This will be declared on the day of judgment.
- C. Even the Gentiles have a moral standard which they break.

What is Paul doing? He is setting up his readers for chapter 3. As a brilliant diamond is displayed on a black cloth to enhance its brilliance, he is about to place God's righteousness against the backdrop of sinful mankind to display in great brilliance the righteousness of God.