



**THE MORALIST:**

**THOSE WHO JUDGE...WILL BE JUDGED!**

**THE BOOK OF**

# **ROMANS**

**Chapter 2:1-16**

# Introduction & V.1

By the time the Romans had come to

chapter 2, Paul has them identifying themselves as definitely “more righteous” than the rebellious sinners who judges. For in whatever you are judging the other person, you are condemning yourself, because you, the one who judges are practicing the same things.”

Col 1:12-31. Consider that the Roman church has taken this (self-righteous) posture. Paul makes an abrupt move in verse 1 by addressing them directly as ones who are also under the judgment of God:


Romans  
2:1-16





Romans  
2:1

The moralist's approach rests on the principle that people have to lead better lives if their status before God is to improve. His assumption is that he himself knows what is good and better and that he is doing so! The moralist fancies himself as having more righteousness than others. That's why he can criticize other and presume to give them advice on how to improve themselves!



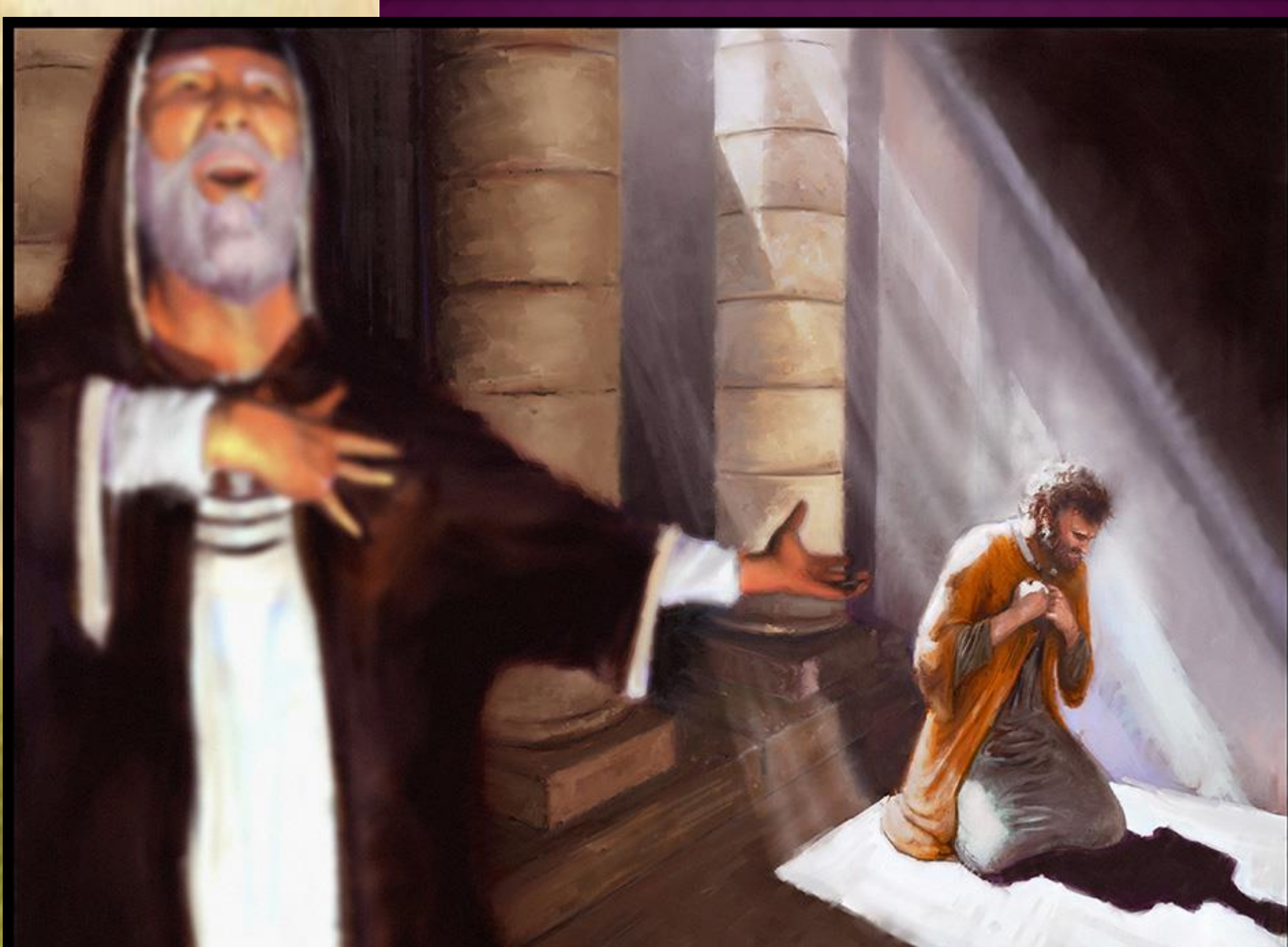
**“...YOU, every person who judges...” are making two very fatal mistakes!**

- 1. “YOU” are taking into your own hands to judge those guilty of practicing things when it is, properly, *“the judgment of God”* (v.2)...HE judges...NOT YOU!**
- 2. “YOU” fail to realize that you are condemning yourself; since, you are doing some of the very same things!**

**Therefore: YOU are “defenseless!” Just as with the unbeliever who is ἀναπολόγητος; so are YOU!**

**Romans  
2:1**



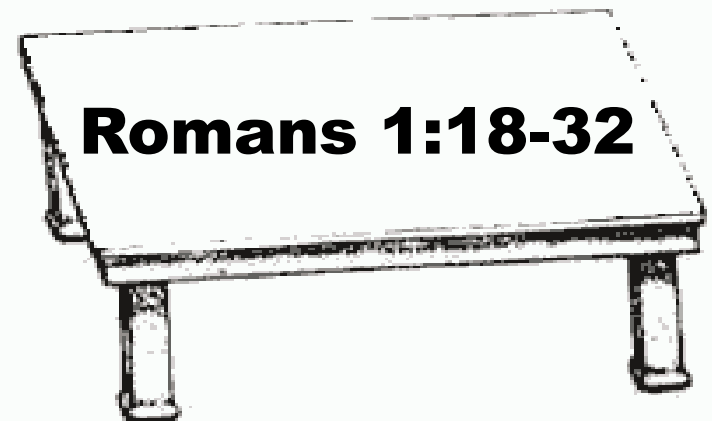
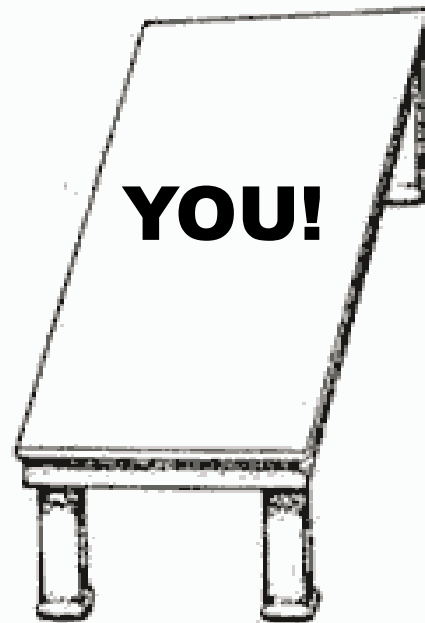







*<sup>2</sup>And we understand that the judgment of God upon the ones who practice things like these is in accordance with truth. <sup>3</sup>But are you counting on this, yes, you, the person judging those who practice things like these while also doing them, that you yourself will flee from the judgment of God?*

**Romans**  
**2:2-3**





<sup>4</sup>*Or do you think scornfully of the abundance of His kindness and forbearance and patience, while ignoring that the kindness of God is leading you into repentance?*

**DID YOU KNOW...**that repentance (μετάνοια) occurs only here in the entire Book of Romans! St. Paul's point is that God's kindly patience is to lead us to repent of all our sins!

Romans  
2:4




Ἀποκάλυψις  
Ἰησοῦ  
Χριστοῦ

*<sup>5</sup>Instead, according to your callousness and  
unrepentant heart, you are storing up for  
yourself wrath in [the] day of wrath and of  
[the] revelation of the righteous judgment  
of God, <sup>6</sup>who will give back to each  
according to his works.*

Those who are impenitent will face  
wrath. Remember, the Lord's wrath  
(ὀργὴ θεοῦ) is being revealed (cf.  
18). Verse 5, though, speaks of a  
future day of wrath. It the "revelation"  
(ἀποκαλύψεως) of God's righteous  
judgment!

Romans  
2:5-6




*<sup>5</sup>Instead, according to your callousness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up for yourself wrath in [the] day of wrath and of [the] revelation of the righteous judgment of God, <sup>6</sup>who will give back to each according to his works.*

**In v.6, Paul turns the focus from YOU to GOD! And he begins to address judgment according to works through v.10. The standard that he uses is the Old Testament! Paul is basing v.6 on Ps. 62:12. That God will judge each one according to works is clear in Holy Scripture (cf. Mt. 16:21-26; Rev. 22:12).**

**Romans**  
**2:5-6**






*<sup>6</sup>who will give back to each according to his works.*

**Is God contradicting Himself???**

**+ cf. Eph. 2:8-9!** (*Let's read vv. 7-13*)

**We must always remember that**  
*"obedience to the Truth" (2:8) is faith born,*  
**and nurtured by the Gospel of Jesus**  
**Christ. Paul sets up a very important**  
**point for all his readers, especially**  
**Jewish Christians, when he states:** *"For*  
*the hearers of the Law [will] not [be]*  
*righteous in the presence of God, but the doers*  
*of the Law will be declared righteous."*

**Romans**  
**2:6-13**




Many Jews of the first century considered themselves part of the righteous people of God simply because they possessed and heard the Law of God. Paul points out that in spite of the value of having and hearing the Law, the only people to be declared righteous according to the Law will be those who are keeping the Law perfectly.

**Therefore, the last sentence is only an abstract possibility that can never be realized by any fallen human being, since:** *“...from the works of the Law, every fleshly person will not be declared righteous before Him...” (Rom 3.20).*

**Romans**  
**2:6-13**






<sup>13</sup>*For the hearers of the Law [will] not [be] righteous in the presence of God, but the doers of the Law will be declared righteous.*

**Verse 13 should be both frightening and comforting to us. We know that God demands that we obey the Law, and yet we also know that because Jesus Christ has fulfilled the Law for us; we will be judged by what HE has done, not by our law-breaking (our sins). Our actions will reflect our Lord's actions when He judges us on the last day (cf. St. Matthew 25:31-46).**

**Romans**  
**2:6-13**




<sup>13</sup>*For the hearers of the Law [will] not [be] righteous in the presence of God, but the doers of the Law will be declared righteous.*

**We must not mistake this verse as motivation for us to “be good” and “do good things.”** Though it might be true that we should be good and do good things; that’s NOT what Paul is teaching! In fact, it’s the opposite! He’s speaking to Jewish listeners who believed that they could be saved by having and hearing the Law. Paul is telling them that having and hearing is not enough! If you’re going to rely upon the Law for your salvation, then you better be about the doing of it, and doing it perfectly.

**Romans**  
**2:6-13**





*<sup>13</sup>For the hearers of the Law [will] not [be] righteous in the presence of God, but the doers of the Law will be declared righteous.*

*This condemns every person!*

Therefore, we shouldn't rely upon US doing, but upon Christ fulfilling the Law for us! This is Paul's point! Their precious ownership of the Law has become their own downfall if it doesn't direct them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Romans  
2:6-13



*Let's read verse 14-16*

Paul is saying that even the Gentiles who don't have the written word of God as part of their world, like you Jews do, they still have the Law written on their hearts, that's why they still understand right from wrong; their thoughts both "*accuse*" and "*defend*" them. So, the same Law that you Jews have is just as condemning as the Law written on the hearts of Gentiles. We all know that we don't behave as we should!

Romans  
2:14-16





**Paul Gerhard**

*“Whoever has a natural knowledge of the Law, he also knows by nature that God exists... Gentiles have a natural knowledge of the Law because, according to the apostle’s testimony: (a) They do by nature things that are of the Law; (b) They do not have the Law written and published outwardly, but they do not completely lack the Law; (c) They are a law unto themselves; and (d) They show the work of the Law written on their hearts. Therefore they know by nature that God exists.”<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Gerhard, Johann. *On the Nature of God and on the Most Holy Trinity. Theological Commonplaces*. St. Louis: Concordia, 2007. p. 77-78.

## Verse 16

Paul then points the Romans to the final, end time judgment of God.

*“According to my gospel”* (the Good News that Paul is preaching) the role of judge has been entrusted by God the Father to another! (Acts 17:31)!

*“Ask ye, Who is this? Jesus Christ it is”* [LSB 656:2]. Jesus Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead [Nicene Creed]. This is in accord with the Gospel, and indeed, it is its final culmination!

Romans  
2:14-16



# **ROMANS 2:17-29**

**The Jews;  
The Law;  
And  
Circumcision**

**NEXT  
WEEK!**