

The Epistle To The Romans (Chapter Two)

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To see how people without a direct revelation of God's Will can still be lost
- 2) To see how people who may have a written Law from God are also in need of salvation

SUMMARY

Having vividly depicted the condition of the Gentile world in chapter one, Paul now addresses his comments to those who pass judgment on others when they themselves are guilty of the same things (v. 1). He points out that they are in danger of God's righteous judgment, who "will render to each one according to his deeds" (vv. 2-6). This judgment will offer either eternal life or wrath and indignation, given without partiality, and the decision is based on whether one does good or evil (vv. 7-11). To justify the condemnation of Gentiles who did not have a written Law (like the Jews), Paul affirms that the Gentiles could "by nature do the things contained in the law" and that their own consciences will bear witness of their guilt on the day of judgment. In this way Paul demonstrated the Gentiles' need of salvation (vv. 12-16). Lest the Jews think their having the Law frees them from condemnation, Paul proceeds to demonstrate that they too are in need of salvation. Though they have the Law, their failure to keep it perfectly caused them to dishonor God and blaspheme His Name (vv. 17-24). Introducing a thought he will expand upon later in the epistle, he points out that a true Jew is one who is circumcised in his heart, and not just in the flesh (vv. 25-29).

OUTLINE OF CHAPTER 2

I. THE GENTILES' NEED OF SALVATION (1-16)

A. EVEN THE "JUDGES" WILL BE JUDGED (1-11)

1. The inconsistent judge judges himself (1)
2. The hypocritical judge is judged by truth (2)
3. The foolish judge reasons poorly (3)
4. The presumptuous judge treasures up wrath (4-11)

B. NOT HAVING A "WRITTEN" LAW DOES NOT EXEMPT FROM JUDGMENT (12-16)

1. Those who sin will still perish (12)
2. The Gentiles DO have a law (13-15)
3. Jesus Christ will judge accordingly (16)

II. THE JEWS' NEED OF SALVATION (17-29)

A. THE JEWS CONDEMNED BY THEIR OWN LAW (17-24)

1. The Jewish self-portrait (17-20)
2. The Jewish inconsistency and dishonor of God (21-24)

B. THE LIMITATION OF CIRCUMCISION (25-29)

1. Voided by transgressing the Law (25-27)
2. The true Jew is one circumcised in the heart, in the Spirit (28-29)

KEY WORDS IN ROMANS (CHAPTER 2)

judgment - in some places, the idea is "**discernment**;" in other places "**condemnation**" is the idea – the context must determine

wrath - **anger** (in God's case, a just **displeasure** in response to sin)

law - when preceded by the definite article "the" (in the Greek) it usually refers to the **Law of Moses**, otherwise it may refer to the principle of law in general; there are exceptions, and the context must determine

by nature - "a mode of feeling and acting which by **long habit** has become nature" (Thayer)

conscience - that faculty of thought which makes **moral judgments** (either excusing or condemning our actions); developed through training

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) List the main points of this chapter

- The Gentiles' Need Of Salvation (1-16)
- The Jews' Need Of Salvation (17-29)

2) Why is one who passes judgment without excuse? (1)

- They are guilty of the same thing and so condemn themselves

3) How does God try to lead one to repentance? (4)

- Through kindness, forbearance, and longsuffering

4) What is the reward given to those who do good? To those who do evil? (9,10)

- Eternal life to those who do good; wrath and indignation, tribulation and anguish to those who do evil

5) How will God judge those who do not have a "written" law? (14-16)

- The law of their conscience will condemn them when God judges the secrets of their hearts

6) Without a "written" Law, how did the Gentiles know the difference between right and wrong? (14,15)

- "by nature" (note the definition above); they are able to do the things contained in the Law, for they have the "work of the Law" written in their hearts

7) Why were the Jews in need of salvation? (21-24)

- Through inconsistency and disobedience to the Law, they dishonored God.