

What About the Jews?

Romans 2

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 1 serves as an introduction, thesis [1:16], and depicts the Gentiles.
- Shift of pronouns: Ch. 1 – they; Ch. 2 - you

1. Jews Exposed – Romans 2:1-11

- 1: Both groups were travelling down same road; Greek word for ‘judge’ 4x in v. 1
- 2: “we know” presumes all readers agree
- 3: Man: GK: human being. Many Jews thought they would escape Judgment because they simply were Jews.
- 4: God gave Jewish people time to repent instead of immediately placing judgment
- 5: Hardness/stubbornness. Medical term: sclerosis. Arteriosclerosis – hardening arteries
- 6: judgment acc. to our deeds, cf. 2 Cor. 5:10
- 7: seek 3 things; contrast with self-seekers, 8
- 8: lit. demean themselves for gain; wrath & indignation – 2 GK words for ‘anger’
- 9: repeats v. 7-8 in reverse order plus the fate of the wicked
- 10: peace with God and man
- 11: partiality – compound in GK: *face + receive*; lit. *to receive one’s face or someone by their face*

2. Righteous Judgment of God – Romans 2:12-16

- 12: 1st use of “law” in Romans
- 13: hearing not enough, must also do it
- 14: followed same principles of the Law yet they didn’t have the Law. By nature: *don’t kill, steal, commit adultery, etc.*
- 15: C.S. Lewis: “human beings all over the earth have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and can not get rid of it”
- 16: who will judge? God through Jesus Christ. My gospel: in a sense, God made it his own.

3. Disobedience of the Jews – Romans 2:17-24

- P addresses fact that Jews considered themselves better than the Gentiles

- 17: if – ei – assuming condition is fulfilled
- 18: not just having but conscious of precepts
- 19,20: descriptions not flattering or inaccurate
- 21,22: “Do you not work on yourself as well?” Steal: GK: kleptó - kleptomaniac
- 23: Jews given many advantages but these assets became liabilities
- 24: Quotes Isaiah 52:5: Gentiles were mocking God because they thought He was unable to protect His people

4. True Circumcision of the Heart – Romans 2:25-29

- Jews: 2 things above all: Law, circumcision
- 25: circumcision: GK: compound *cut + around*
- 26: uncircumcision: GK: lit. “[having] the foreskin” – how shocking to a Jew!
- 27: by living out principles of the Law, it fulfilled one of the aspects of the Law.
- 28: outwardly, in the open
- 29: inwardly, in secret
- Fleshly circumcision: cutting around to remove foreskin
- Spiritual circumcision: cutting out all evil
- Men praise what they can see; God praises what He cannot see – heart circumcision – 1 Samuel 16:7

Lessons:

1. There is coming a great Judgment Day when God will be the Judge. Are you ready for this great day? Don't be shocked on that day!
2. Letting your 'conscience be your guide' can be dangerous. Some people's conscience has been seared with a hot iron – 1 Timothy 4:2. Instead, use God's Word as your guide.
3. Don't try to live a spiritual life on the outside to be seen of others. Rather, we should work on being faithful to God.

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