

## **A Word from Kathy**

Romans 1 identified the problem of sin very clearly for us. Men and women under sin's control want to rule their own lives; they try to resist God. They try to ignore his attempts to reveal his love and do not acknowledge his glory. God's word says they are without excuse. In this chapter we will see God's righteous judgment and our tendency to excuse ourselves and yet judge others. The only person we have the power to change is ourselves. Please pray and ask God to speak to your heart, and then listen expectantly for his voice.

## **Observation**

1. Notice the moral line Paul mentions in verse 1. What do we prove when we draw this line?
2. What fact is Paul sharing with the people in verses 2-3 about judging others?  
God's judgment is based on \_\_\_\_\_. If we judge another person's sin and yet continue doing what we want without considering God's commands, where does that leave us?
3. Verse 4 asks the question, "Do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience?" To show contempt means to treat as worthless, to think little of, to underestimate the worth or value of something. God's judgment is coming; his mercy is holding it back so that many will repent and be saved. We must not mistake God's kindness, tolerance and patience for approval. What should it motivate us to do? Where should it be leading us?
4. According to verses 5-6, what are many men and women doing?  
It does not have to be this way. How has God provided for them?  
Notice in verse 5 that there is an appointed day of God's wrath. There will be a day of judgment one day, the Great White Throne judgment spoken of in Rev. 20:11-15.
5. Romans 2:7-10 makes very clear the distinction between those who live in obedience and those who live in rebellion.  
What will our lives reflect when we allow the Holy Spirit of God to lead us?  
What will our lives look like if we are led by the flesh?

6. On the back of this page draw pictures with captions to illustrate verses 7 & 8. Stick figures are fine. This is not an art project but an exercise in understanding.
7. Verse 11 gives us a bit of insight into the problems believers faced at that time. God had given his law and commands to the Jews, but they did not understand that the purpose of the law was to show them their need. The law was to point them to Christ. There is no favoritism with God. The answer to man's sin problem is not merely in knowing the law but in \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 13).

*Gal. 3:24 the law was our guardian (tutor) until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.*

8. Paul was not diminishing the importance of being a Jew. The Jews were God's chosen people to point others to God. By their example they were to show that God is holy and worthy of our love. They were not chosen because of any great works, for they had done none when he chose Abraham. It was not their great number, because they were not a people until God chose Abraham, and through his promise and his blessing they became a nation. He chose them by his grace and for his purpose. Look at Romans 2:17-29; what do these verses show that those who were given the law of God were to do with it?
9. Circumcision was a sign of God's covenant with Abraham and his descendants after him. What do we learn about circumcision from Romans 2: 28-29? How is being a Jew more than merely the cutting of the flesh? What is God truly interested in?

### **Application**

10. When you first read Romans 1 last week, did you think Paul was being a bit too harsh? But this week, as we look at Romans 2, Paul addresses judging others. How do you determine who is "good" and who is "bad"? What would your scale look like? Sin  Holiness  
Who would you list as the worst possible sinner; possibly some dreadful mass murderer?  
Who would you have as the most holy; possibly Billy Graham?  
Where does everyone else go? What does that make you? What do we prove if we place anyone on the scale?

11. We have identified the problem of sin. We all have a sin nature and our flesh longs to gratify its own selfish, lustful desires. We are all without excuse, but it was never God's desire for us to stay separated from him. He longs for all men and women to turn to him. In his mercy and grace he reaches out to us. On the back of this sheet jot down some of the ways God has revealed himself to you throughout your life.
  
12. Birthright, possessions, status and position, or even denominational affiliations, are of little to no interest to God. What is the only thing that will matter to God? God loves each of us so much that he does not want *"any to perish but all to come to repentance."* 2 Peter 3:9
  
13. We live in an era of favoritism, so it makes it very difficult for us to imagine that God does not have favorites. God is interested in the obedience of our heart to the commands he gives us. What has God been speaking to you about this week as you have studied Romans 2?
  
14. At the end of time, when God, the righteous judge, calls all men and women before him, there will be a judgment of every deed done. What will matter then, when a person's sins one by one are placed on the scale?



Will family heritage, good works, religion or fame be enough? What is the only thing that will be enough? (Rom. 1:16)  
It would have been terribly unloving of Paul to know the truth of the gospel and not clearly share it with others.

15. In this chapter Paul questions why we pass judgment on others while believing there will be an excuse for our own sin. In Matthew 7:2 Jesus taught, *"For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*  
Our actions influence others; are we bringing honor and glory to him?  
Or are we bringing a reproach to his name as we saw in verse 24?

16. Who is the only person we can really change?

Has God been prompting you concerning a particular action or habit?

Do you believe there will be blessings for your obedience that could have an effect on others?

17. When Paul spoke of circumcision of the heart this week, were you able to personalize that? Circumcision was a sign of the covenant God established with Abraham and his descendants. It marked them out as his. Is your heart marked out in such a way that others can easily see you belong to God?

18. Stop and write out a prayer to God concerning the things he has talked to your heart about this week.