

LESSON 10
ROMANS 2:1-29
11-13-2019

Romans 2:1 Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. **2** And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things. **3** But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? **4** Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? **5** But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, **6** who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: **7** to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; **8** but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. **9** There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, **10** but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **11** For there is no partiality with God. **12** For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law; **13** for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified. **14** For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, **15** in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, **16** on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus. **17** But if you bear the name "Jew" and rely upon the Law and boast in God, **18** and know His will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, **19** and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, **20** a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, **21** you, therefore, who teach another, do you

not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal? **22** You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? **23** You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God? **24** For "THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU," just as it is written. **25** For indeed circumcision is of value if you practice the Law; but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. **26** So if the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? **27** And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Law, will he not judge you who though having the letter of the Law and circumcision are a transgressor of the Law? **28** For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. **29** But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

Remember, Paul was talking mainly to the Gentiles in **Romans 1:18-32**. All the heathen (Gentile) Nations perished living for the most part according to verses 18 thru 32 - all being at some level in this downward path to complete ungodliness and unrighteousness at its highest degree possible; with the exception of a few Gentiles from those Nations (Rahab the harlot, Ruth, etc.) converting to the Jewish faith throughout the Old Testament history. The Gentiles were "without God" in this world, without the Law of God, being "excluded from the commonwealth of Israel" before Christ's first coming (**Ephesians 2:12**). All were at some level in the downward cycle of verses 18 thru 32. The people during Noah's day are an example of this downward progression with mankind reaching its worst state of depravity possible - ending with the wrath of God covering the earth with water bringing judgment on all the wicked. **The wicked in God's sight are all the unrepentant - non-elect!** The world with the non-elect greatly outnumbering the Elect is at the present time racing, according to that same downward spiral - "without God", bringing us to the same ungodly, unrighteous, corrupt and depraved living conditions as in the days of Noah; at which time Christ will return to destroy this world and all the wicked with fire at His second and final coming (**Matthew 24:36-39; 2 Peter 3:10-13**). The Apostle Paul is **mainly addressing the Jews in Romans 2:1-29**. The Gentiles only had "general

revelation" through creation and the "works of the law" written in their hearts (being conscious of right and wrong); **whereas, Israel, knowing they were chosen by God to be His own people and having God's favor as such, felt superior and righteous** compared to the Gentiles who were "without God"; and thereby judged the Gentiles as heathens, unworthy of God's favor and deserving God's judgment for their sinful practices. Jews looked down on Gentiles as horrible sinners and would not associate with them. Paul therefore says, **1 "Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. 2 And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things. 3 But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God?"** Paul is making the point that the Jews practice the same things as the Gentiles because **they are sinners also** and that the judgment of God will rightfully fall on **all who sin**; God demands turning from all sin and too obedient righteous living! (God speaking through His prophet Ezekiel to the house of Israel, **Ezekiel 18:23 "Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares the Lord GOD, "rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?"**; John the Baptist speaking to the Pharisees and Saducees said, **Matthew 3:8 "Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; 9 and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham."** God desires loving obedience and not lip service - **Isaiah 29:13 "Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned by rote, ...")** Paul continues, **4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?** God is long-suffering and pours out His goodness and kindness upon Israel and upon all people while patiently waiting for repentance and for turning to Him in obedience because of His kindness, tolerance and patience - holding back His judgments while giving time for repentance. (**Ezekiel 33:11 "Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord GOD, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of**

*Israel?"). Paul continues, **5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: ...*** Paul is saying that because they live like the Gentiles, refusing to repent and hardening their hearts to God - rejecting His Mercy and Love; they will, at the White Throne Judgment (**Revelation 20:11-15**), be judged according to their deeds bringing upon themselves the Eternal Wrath of God for their refusal to repent and believe the Gospel (**Revelation 20:13** *"And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire."*). Paul continues speaking mainly to the Jews with the Gentiles also being accountable to God, **Rom 2:7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, they will receive eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, they will receive wrath and indignation. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God.** In that **12 For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law; 13 for it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified. 14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, 15 in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, 16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus. 17 But if you bear the name "Jew" and rely upon the Law and boast in God, 18 and know His will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, 19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the**

embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, 21 you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal? 22 You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God? 24 For "THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU," just as it is written. 25 For indeed circumcision is of value if you practice the Law; but if you are a transgressor of the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. 26 So if the uncircumcised man keeps the requirements of the Law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? 27 And he who is physically uncircumcised, if he keeps the Law, will he not judge you who though having the letter of the Law and circumcision are a transgressor of the Law? 28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. 29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God. (You are a Jew if you are Born Again!!!)

God through Ezekiel, speaking to the house of Israel, said this, **Ezekiel 18:31** *"Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord GOD. "Therefore, repent and live."* Also, Jeremiah said, **Jeremiah 13:23** *"Can the Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his spots? Then you also can do good Who are accustomed to doing evil."*

We cannot make ourselves a new heart and a new spirit. Only Christ can do that and He does it in the new birth at that moment we are born again by the regenerating and renewing work of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5-6). Remember the five saving works of Grace (God's giving us Favor we don't deserve) that Christ does in us, to us and for us at the moment He saves us? Ezekiel 36:24-27, 31 - Review New Birth! That is what the Apostle Paul is talking about in Romans 2:28-29!!!