



## Decade of Availability Human & Divine Judgment

**Diatribes:** A debate conducted between an author and a nonexistent imaginary critic. This imaginary critic appears in Romans 2.

### 1. The Inconsistency of Human Judgment v. 1

**a. Hypocrisy:** Paul argues that man often has the capacity to evaluate and criticize the behavior of his fellow without recognizing that his evaluation is tainted because of his inconsistency. Personal, local and national judgment is inconsistent and often unfair.

**b. Hyper-righteousness:** The feeling that my life is better than others because I don't do/say/live what others do—and because I am better I am right.

**c. Action vs. attitude:** What is the 'same things' that these hyper-righteous do? They may not be doing the activity but have the underlying 'attitude' and that's as bad as the activity.

### 2. The Integrity of Divine Judgment vv. 2-15

**a. Judgment according to truth:** v. 2 God's judgment is based on truth because God Himself is true and will therefore be totally unprejudiced. The evidence will be real and therefore there can be no thought of mistrial.

**b. No escape:** vv. 3 The judgment of God is inescapable. Still—people think they can escape the judgment of God by being good and following a spiritual or religious life.

**c. The longsuffering of God:** vv. 4-5 Because there is not a complete demonstration of His judgment some feel that they have already escaped not understanding God's longsuffering waiting for people to come to repentance. In the meantime they 'treasure up' [store up] condemnation.

**d. Judgment and man's actions:** vv. 6-15 Some have used this section to teach that man can be saved 'justified' by good works. At first it looks as this is what Paul is saying especially vv. 7; 10; 13. However, Paul is building an argument here that NO ONE can fulfill the righteousness of the law. If it were possible for anyone to live as he describes—but it is not. He says this in *Rom 3:30-24*

*"20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

*21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;*

*22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..."*

### 3. The Inevitability of Divine Judgment v. 16

**a. The secrets of men:** Those that do not know Christ will be judged according to their deeds in the light of their secret (inner) motivation and heart.

**b. By Jesus Christ:** The Judgment is by God through Jesus Christ—the Person of the Gospel message the message of salvation. *Philippians 2:10-11* says.... (See also *Romans 14:10-13*)

**"...at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father."**

### Romans 2:1-16 (KJV)

**1** Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

**2** But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. **3** And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? **4** Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? **5** But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

**6** Who will render to every man according to his deeds: **7** To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: **8** But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, **9** Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; **10** But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: **11** For there is no respect of persons with God. **12** For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; **13** (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. **14** For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: **15** Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

**16** In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.