



## THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS

### "The Judgment of God" Romans 2:1-16

No. 280

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Paul's sweeping denunciation of human behavior no doubt stirred up indignant reaction in some of his hearers, as it still does today. By utilizing a literary device called "diatribe"—a debate with an anonymous person—he answers the objections and shows that everyone must face the judgment of God.

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

- A. Human judgment is often necessary.
- B. Human judgment is regularly practiced.
- C. Human judgment is usually inconsistent.
  - 1. Condemns the excessive, condones the moderate.
  - 2. Indignant about action, ignorant of motive.
  - 3. Easy to object, difficult to be objective.
  - 4. Quick to be critical, slow to admit hypocritical.
- D. Human judgment is self-defeating.

#### II. The Integrity of Divine Judgment.

Note: Paul declares Divine judgment—does not debate it.

- A. Divine judgment is just. v. 2
  - 1. The judge is true.
  - 2. The evidence is untainted.
- B. Divine judgment is inescapable. v. 3
  - 1. No double standards.
  - 2. No mistrial.
  - 3. No exceptions.
- C. Divine judgment is cumulative. vv. 4-5
  - 1. The coming judgment.
  - 2. The Divine kindness.
  - 3. The human stubbornness.
  - 4. The cumulative effect.
- D. Divine judgment is evaluative. vv. 6b-10
  - 1. The God-seeker.
    - a. Motives.
      - i. The glory of God—"Glory."
      - ii. The approval of God—"Honor."
      - iii. The presence of God—"Immortality."
    - b. Actions
      - i. Doing good.
      - ii. Persistence.
    - c. Evaluation.
      - i. The gift of eternal life.
  - 2. The self-seeker.
    - a. Motives.
      - i. The enthronement of self.
      - ii. The dethronement of God.
    - b. Actions.
      - i. Follows evil.
      - ii. Rejects truth.
    - c. Evaluation.
      - i. Wrath, anger, trouble, distress.
- E. Divine judgment is impartial. vv. 11-15
  - 1. The privileged Jew.
    - a. Has the law to obey.
    - b. Will be judged by his obedience/disobedience.
  - 2. The underprivileged Gentile.
    - a. Does not have law.
    - b. Does have conscience.
    - c. Will be judged by the light he has.

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

- A. God will judge.
- B. Men's secrets will be judged.
- C. The judgment will be by Christ.
- D. This is Gospel.