

Sin and Condemnation: The World's need to get right with God

(56)

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[Romans 1:18-3:20](#)

(Continuation from 12/04/16)

C. God's Case Against the Moralist: Judgment, [Romans 2:1-16](#)

[Romans 2:6-10 \(NASB\)](#)

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.”

[\(Romans 2:1-16\) Introduction](#): this is one of the passages that covers several subjects and can be studied from the viewpoint of any one of them. It is an excellent study on judging, criticizing others, the judgment of God, self-righteousness, the moralist, and the legalist.

It also deals with the judgment of the heathen, and answers the question so often asked: “What will happen to the heathen, to the person who never hears about Jesus Christ?” [\(Romans 2:11-15\).](#)

The present study is entitled: “God's Case Against the Moralist.”

1. [The moralist \(v.1\).](#)
2. [The judgment of God is according to truth: perfect justice \(v.2-5\).](#)
3. [The judgment of God is according to deeds: eternal reward or punishment \(v.6-10\).](#)
4. [The judgment of God is without respect of persons: absolute impartiality \(v.11-15\).](#)
5. [The judgment of God is to be executed by Jesus Christ and His gospel \(v.16\).](#)

4. [\(Romans 2:11-15\) Judgment—Obedience—Doers—Hearers](#): the judgment of God—of the only living and true God—is without respect of persons.

Romans 2:11-15 (NASB)

¹¹“For there is no partiality with God.

¹²For 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;

¹³for *it is* not the hearers of the Law *who* are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified.

¹⁴For 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,

¹⁵in 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.”

God’s judgment will be executed with absolute impartiality, showing no favoritism whatsoever. God has no favorites. God does not show partiality; He does not favor the...

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| a. moralist | e. wealthy |
| b. outstanding | f. religionist |
| c. honorable | g. benevolent |
| d. educated | h. famous |

God favors no one. All men stand on an equal footing before God’s judgment. *God loves and cares for all*, but He has no favorites and shows no partiality. Therefore, in the great Day of Judgment, all will be judged by the same rule and by the same principle.

1. The man who sins without the law and the man who sins in the law will both be judged. Again, sin is the basis of judgment. Men will be judged *for sin*.

- a. The man who sins “**without law**” (*anomōs*) will also perish without law. The word for law is a general word. It refers to the law of God in both the Scriptures and nature. Therefore, the man who does not have the law of Scripture *does have* the law of nature to guide him. If he sins against the law of nature, he will still be judged and perish. He had the opportunity to know through nature itself.
- b. The man who sins “**in the law**” will be judged by the law. His judgment, of course, will be greater, for he had every privilege and opportunity imaginable.

Acts 10:34-35 (NASB)

³⁴“Opening his mouth, Peter said: ‘I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality,

³⁵but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.’”

Acts 15:9 (NASB)

⁹“And He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.”

Romans 2:11 (NASB)

¹¹“For there is no partiality with God.”

Romans 10:12 (NASB)

¹²“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him.”

2. The doers and not the hearers of the law will be justified. It is not enough to have the law or the Word of God; it is not enough...

- a. to hear and see it
- b. to understand and know it
- c. to possess and profess it
- d. to proclaim and teach it

A person must be a doer of the law; he must obey and live the law. The law was not given just to sit on a bookshelf or on a table, not given just to be heard and to secure verbal agreement. The law was given to be obeyed and lived out, to govern and control life so that life could be lived to the fullest. Therefore, those who only hear the law will not be justified before God, but the doers of the law will be justified.

Thought 1. Possessing, having, hearing, and even proclaiming the law (the Word of God) is not enough to save a person. A person must keep the law; he must live and do the will of God.

Matthew 7:21 (NASB)

²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter.*”

Matthew 12:50 (NASB)

⁵⁰ “For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

Luke 6:47-49 (NASB)

⁴⁷ “Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like:

⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.

⁴⁹ But the one who has heard and has not acted *accordingly*, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.”

John 13:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ “If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

Romans 2:13 (NASB)

¹³ “For *it is* not the hearers of the Law *who* are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified.”

James 1:22 (NASB)

²² “But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.”

James 4:11 (NASB)

¹¹ “Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge *of it.*”

1 John 2:17 (NASB)

¹⁷“The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”

Revelation 22:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city.”

3. The heathen has a threefold witness, a witness that is strong enough to lead them to God.

- a. Men have their nature—the nature of man that speaks loudly and clearly—that points toward God. Note exactly what the verse says.
 1. Men may not have the law (the Scriptures)...
 2. But they can do the law by nature.
 3. They can become “a law unto themselves.”

There is that within man, within **his nature** (*phusei*), that can stir him to do the law. Man, has within him an instinctive knowledge of right and wrong. His very nature gives him the opportunity to do what is right.

Something else is meant here as well. Man, can look at nature (creation) and see that he is part of it. He can instinctively see by nature the great eternal power and deity of God. (See note—[Romans 1:20](#) for a list of the things nature reveals about God.)

Romans 1:19 (NASB)

¹⁹“Because that which is known about God is evident within them [within them, in their consciences, in an inner moral sense]; for God made it evident to them.”

Romans 1:20 (NASB)

²⁰“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

- b. Men have their consciences that bear witness to what is right and wrong. When they do right, they sense approval; when they do wrong, they sense reproach. Man’s conscience gives him the opportunity to live righteously and to do good.

Hebrews 9:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

Hebrews 10:22 (NASB)

²²“Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”

Romans 13:5 (NASB)

⁵“Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.”

- c. Men have their thoughts, their reasoning ability which can approve or disapprove, excuse or accuse them and others. Men's thoughts bear witness to how they should and should not live, whether their behavior is excused (acceptable) or accused (condemned). **Now note two critical points.**

First, men can learn a great deal about God and about right and wrong through their nature, conscience and thoughts. Men can look at themselves and creation and learn that they are to live...

1. by order and law and rules.
2. in obedience and respect and peace.
3. giving recognition and honor and esteem.
4. being clean and pure and moral.
5. showing care and concern and love.
6. without stealing and lying and cheating.

Second, men cannot be saved apart from Jesus Christ. No matter how morally they may live—whether they live by law or by nature—they do not live a sinless and perfect life. They sin and come short of God's glory. Therefore, no matter how morally men live, they have to be *perfected* in the “**righteousness of God**” which is in Christ Jesus Himself.

John 14:6 (NASB)

⁶“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.’”

Acts 4:12 (NASB)

¹²“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

1 Timothy 2:5 (NASB)

⁵“For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus.”

1 John 2:1 (NASB)

¹“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

1 John 4:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son *to be* the Savior of the world.”