

# ROMANS

*A Daily Devotional  
Study Guide*



**WEEK 3**

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## Day 1

**Study:** Romans 2:1-5

**Reading:** Revelation 20:11-15, Ephesians 4:1-17

**Memory:** Matthew 5:9

**W**hen one of my daughters was five years old, she was enjoying watching the summer Olympic games with me. On a few occasions, while watching different events, she looked at me and said, “Daddy, you should do that!” In her mind, she thought that I had the ability to compete with the world class athletes because she looked at things from her perspective. She measured my abilities against the abilities of some of the Olympic athletes, and to her, they looked the same.

Today, we are going to see how we as believers often use the wrong measuring instrument to measure our lives. It is easy to compare ourselves with others rather than judge ourselves by the standard of God’s holiness.

### What Does the Bible Say?

God has been revealed to all men through creation. This means that every human being who has ever been born on this earth is a sinner and is without excuse. This is a direct contradiction to the tendency that most religious people have as they compare themselves with other people and don’t see their need for Jesus because of their self-righteousness (vs 1). No matter how much better we think we are, the fact that we are sinners still remains. The fact that God judges sin never changes. This means that it does no good for us to compare ourselves to others because God doesn’t judge based on what others do. He judges according to His standard of holiness (vs 2).

When a person decides to compare himself to others and cast judgement upon others, he is actually condemning himself because his sin is just as bad (vs 3). Some people think that because they are better than others, God will deal kindly with them. Others think that because God is so loving, He won’t judge or punish sin. When people think this way, they fail to understand how God’s kindness and love are displayed. His kindness isn’t displayed by overlooking our sin, but by accepting the payment that Jesus Christ made on the cross to cover the cost for our sin (vs 4).

Those who are counting on God's kindness to overlook their sins are actually storing up wrath for themselves in the day of judgment. There are two judgments that are described in the New Testament. There is the Great White Throne judgment where unbelievers will stand before God and be judged for their sin. Everyone who stands in this judgment will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11-15). There is also the "Bema Seat" judgment in which God will reward believers for their righteous deeds (II Corinthians 5:10). The judgment referred to here is the Great White Throne in which self-righteous people will be judged for their sin. For an eternity, they will regret the fact that they chose to reject God's way of salvation (vs 5).

### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Though this passage is mainly speaking to the self-righteous unbeliever, you as a true believer can learn a valuable lesson. You need to constantly remember and realize that you are no better than anyone else. You need to make sure that you are measuring yourself according to the Word of God and not according to what others are doing. The Christian life isn't a competition to see who can be the best believer. As you live each day, compare your life to the standard that God has set for you in His Word. When you focus on His Word and not others, your spiritual growth level will continue to increase.

### **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God because of the kindness He displayed through Jesus.*
- \* *Ask God to show you any area of your life where you are comparing yourself to others.*
- \* *Praise God because He is a righteous judge.*

### **Thought for the day**

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## ***Day 2***

**Study:** Romans 2:6-11

**Reading:** Luke 12:1-5, Acts 10:34-43

**Memory:** Matthew 5:9

**F**or several years I was a basketball referee. As I reffed, I tried not to show favoritism to any of the teams and attempted to be as fair as possible. This was hard to do, even if I didn't know anyone on either team. Sometimes there were teams that would get under my skin because of the way they complained or because of the way their coach acted. Other times, there were players who would joke around with me and caused me to enjoy reffing their games. Being impartial wasn't easy and I couldn't always do it, no matter how hard I tried.

Today we are going to see how God doesn't struggle with impartiality. God laid down the requirements for eternal life in His Word and will judge without favoritism.

### **What Does the Bible Say?**

Those who fail to see that they are born sinners and choose to reject the gift of salvation will face the wrath of God. This is because God is just and judges according to His standard. Whether a person thinks they are pretty good or better than others doesn't matter to God. Each person will be judged for their own sin and it is sin that separates us from God and sends a person to eternal damnation (vs 6).

God divides men into two different categories. The first category, mentioned in verses 7 and 10, are those who have been justified from their sin. In this category, people's lives display that they have been converted as they follow God's Word and live for eternity. This doesn't teach that good works are necessary for salvation, but, as we will read about later on in Romans, good works are a result of salvation. According to verse 10, the reward for those who live righteously will be glory, honor and peace.

The second category mentioned in verses 8-9 are those who choose to reject God. Though they may appear to be good, religious people, they don't obey the truth that God has laid down in His Word. Many will have a form of godliness, but their purpose is purely selfish. Because they are sinners and have never accepted Christ's payment for their sin, they will

spend eternity in hell separated from the God who they failed to look to.

Paul let the Jews know that they were no better than the Greeks whom they looked down upon because God doesn't show favoritism. God doesn't judge based on human criteria, but He judges based on His standard that He has set down in His Word. Those who think they are good enough because of their race, religion, or the works they do will be found guilty and will suffer for eternity (vs 11).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

How do you measure up according to God's standard? Do you judge others based on your spirituality or do you realize that you are a sinner just like others? Have you come to the realization that you can do nothing to earn your salvation? Many people, in all denominations (even ones that constantly share the truth of the Word of God), think that they are on their way to heaven because they are pretty good people. After all, they go to church every week, give to missions and have never committed any big sins. This type of thinking has damned many people to an eternity in hell because they failed to understand God's requirements for heaven. They fail to realize that their sin is bad enough to separate them from God for eternity. If they don't think their sin is that bad, they really don't think they need a Savior. Examine your life and your salvation today. Are you just playing church, or has your life been transformed by the grace of Jesus Christ?

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God for giving you the truth in His Word.*
- \* *Ask God to help you avoid playing church.*
- \* *Praise God because He is a God of grace.*

## **Thought for the day**

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# *Day 3*

**Study:** Romans 2:12-16

**Reading:** Matthew 3:1-12, James 2:18-26

**Memory:** Matthew 5:9

## **What Does the Bible Say?**

As you read in verse 11 yesterday, God does not show partiality. Both Jews and Gentiles are subject to God's judgment and are also given the opportunity to experience His great forgiveness. Those who have sinned not knowing what God's Law was will spend eternity apart from God in the same way as those who have died knowing God's Law. The difference in where one will spend eternity will not be based on when or where a person was born, but based upon their choice on how they respond to divine or natural revelation. This would have been a very significant statement back in the days that the New Testament was written. If you remember that right after the church started, there were many debates about Gentiles being able to be converted. It was hard for many Jews who grew up with an understanding that they were God's special people to come to grips with the fact that all men, whether Jew or Gentile, had the same opportunity for salvation (vs 12).

It is not enough to just hear the truth. The Jews who rejected Jesus had heard the truth many times, yet they chose to kill the Son of God. If you think about this in light of today's society, it would be compared to those who attend church, and those who don't. Even today, this same mentality often exists that existed among the Jews. People feel that if they go to church, that will somehow earn them a spot in heaven. They pride themselves on going to a church regularly and hearing the Word of God, yet the hearing of the Word is not equal to conversion by the Spirit and the Word. Those who act upon the Gospel and become "doers" are the ones who truly are the children of God. This does not mean that doing things will earn one's salvation, but that revealed truth demands action (vs 13).

When the Pharisees came to be baptized by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:7-12), John told them that baptism would not save them. If they were to be delivered from eternal wrath and become true children of God they must "bear fruit in keeping with repentance." He went on to tell them that their

Jewish heritage did not mean they were children of God.

Men were created in the image of God and were given a moral compass as human beings. Though this morality can easily be corrupted, societies who do not believe in God are still often based on moral principles. Man has a conscience to help direct them into right and wrong. Even those who do not know the Law of God understand when they are sinning and that they are not doing what their Creator desires. This conscience can often be suppressed or hardened, but the point that Paul was making was that both Jews and Gentiles will be judged with the same criteria. As men stand before God, they will be without excuse and not judged on whether or not they heard the truth of the Word of God. Both the hearers of the Word and those who have God's Law written in their hearts (those who have not heard) will both be judged equally. Jew and non-Jew are judged based on how they react and respond to the verbal or non-verbal revelation that God has given (vs 14-16).

### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you place a great emphasis on church? This is not necessarily bad because meeting together with other believers is prescribed in the Bible and extremely helpful. God has called believers to gather together to learn and encourage one another, but many people place a greater emphasis on church than they do on obedience to the Gospel. Many people think "If I can just get them to come to church, everything will be okay." Though attending a Bible preaching church will help a person as they hear the Word, church attendance should not be over emphasized. I believe there are millions of people who attend church on a weekly basis, but like many of the Jews who were challenged by Paul, they will spend eternity apart from God. Being a certain religion has nothing to do with a person's eternal soul. Every person, regardless of what religion they claim to be needs to live in obedience to the Gospel. This will continue to be explained as you continue your study in the book of Romans.

### **Thought for the day**

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## ***Day 4***

**Study:** Romans 2:1-5, Matthew 7:1-5, Matthew 9:10-13

**Reading:** Hosea 6:1-11, Ephesians 2:1-10

**Memory:** Matthew 5:9

### **Romans 2:1**

How is chapter 2 a continuation of what Paul had just written in chapter 1?

*\*\*\*It must be remembered that chapter divisions were added in A.D. 1227 and verse divisions were added in A.D. 1551. Sometimes these divisions get in the way of fuller understanding of Scripture.*

Why would a person think that they would not be condemned by the judgement of God (Rom 2:1)?

How is it easy to become self-righteous and judge others when you yourself commit many of the same things?

What do you think causes people to place judgment on others (Rom 2:1-3)?

What do you forget about when you choose to condemn others (Rom 2:4)?

How will people who live a morally righteous life face the same judgement as those who live in much of the wickedness talked about in chapter 1 (Rom 2:5)?

Describe an instance in your life where you have looked down on someone else for the sins they have committed? How were your actions opposite of the way that Christ lived here on the earth?

### **Matthew 7:1-5**

What are you told not to do (Matt 7:1)?

How are you going to be judged (Matt 7:2)?

What does verse three mean?

Why is it easy to try to pick out the faults of others while you yourself have many greater problems (Matt 7:4)?

What do you need to do in your life before attempting to correct others (Matt 7:5)?

How can you practically put these verses into practice in your life?

### **Matthew 9:10-13**

Who was Jesus eating with (Matt 9:10)?

Why was this such a problem for the Pharisees (Matt 9:11)?

*\*\*\*These two groups of people were looked down on by the religious leaders since they didn't meet up to the religious standards.*

What do you think the Pharisees were attempting to do with their question to the disciples (Matt 9:11)?

What do you think Jesus meant in response to what the Pharisees were saying (Matt 9:12)?

What did Jesus tell the Pharisees they needed to do (Matt 9:13)? - See Hosea 6:6

Why had Jesus come (Matt 9:13)?

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply this to my everyday life?

## *Day 5*

**Study:** Romans 2:6-11, James 2:1-13

**Reading:** I Corinthians 3:10-23, Revelation 20:1-15

**Memory:** Matthew 5:9

### **Romans 2:6-11**

How will a person be judged (Rom 2:6)?

What are three characteristics listed which describe those who will receive eternal life (Rom 2:7)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

*\*\*\*It is important to understand this verse in the whole context of Romans and the rest of Scripture. Paul is not using this single verse to say that the person who does good things will get to heaven. These are characteristics that will be evidence of a true belief in the Gospel.*

How do you see these characteristics evident in your life?

What are three characteristics listed which describe those who will receive eternal damnation (Rom 2:8)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Why do you think Paul is emphasizing that a person's actions, not their nationality or religious standing, will be the determining factor when it comes to eternal life (Rom 2:9-10)?

What was one of the main points that Paul was trying to get across in verses 1-11 (Rom 2:11)?

What are ways that you can be tempted to show partiality when dealing with people?

## James 2:1-13

What are we told not to do as believers (Jam 2:1)?

What two different types of people does James mention (Jam 2:2)?

How are you supposed to treat both men the same (Jam 2:3)?

What are you doing if you show partiality (Jam 2:4)?

What areas are you tempted to show partiality in and why?

*\*\*\*Many people would claim that they are not prejudice, but there is normally a little bit (or a lot) in all of us. We often think about race when we hear the term "prejudice," but there are many more areas of partiality than race. It could be social standing, body structure, mental ability and many other things.*

What did James remind his readers of (Jam 2:5)?

What did the wealthy people often do to those who were poor (Jam 2:6)?

Why do you think the poor people would still honor the rich even though they knew the rich had done awful things (Jam 2:6-7)?

How are you supposed to treat all men (Jam 2:8)?

What happens if you show partiality (Jam 2:9)?

What point was James attempting to make in verses 10-11?

How are you supposed to live as a believer (Jam 2:12-13)?

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

## Day 6

**Study:** Romans 2:12-16, Luke 18:9-14, I Corinthians 4:1-5

**Reading:** Psalm 139:1-24

**Memory:** Matthew 5:9

### **Romans 2:12-16**

Who are those who didn't have the law (Rom 2:12)?

Who are those who had the law (Rom 2:12)?

What will happen to both groups of people (Rom 2:12)?

What will bring justification (Rom 2:13)?

*\*\*\*The Greek term for "justified" is a judicial term for an acquittal. It means "to show one to be right; to be set free; to put right with." By no means is Paul saying that a person can do this on their own without Christ. This will be evident as you continue to read in Romans.*

How does verse 13 reveal that a mental belief in God is not enough to deliver them from eternal damnation?

How did those who did not have the Law know that they were sinning or breaking the law (Rom 2:14-15)?

What does God know about men (Rom 2:16)?

*\*\*\*Paul was attempting to get all Romans, specifically the Roman Jews, to understand that God judges all men based on their hearts and not their nationality, religious affiliation or social standing.*

### **Luke 18:9-14**

Who was this parable directed towards (Luk 18:9)?

What did their attitude cause them to do (Luk 18:9)?

What two types of people went to pray (Luk 18:10)?

How were these two men completely opposite of each other?

*\*\*\*Pharisees were the religious leaders of the day and many would spend a great deal of time studying the Law and would know all the regulations set forth in the Jewish religion. A tax collector was looked at as a traitor since he was working with the Roman government. It was looked at by devout Jews as a rejection of the Jewish faith.*

How would you describe the prayer of the Pharisee (Luk 18:11-12)?

How would you describe the prayer of the tax collector (Luk 18:13)?

What conclusion did Jesus give to His parable (Luk 18:14)?

### **I Corinthians 4:1-5**

*\*\*\*In this passage, Paul was trying to get the Corinthians to understand that he was just a servant of God and wasn't to be revered above other spiritual leaders.*

What did Paul say about judging (I Cor 4:3:)?

What did Paul realize about the danger of judging (I Cor 4:4)?

Who should you leave the judging to (I Cor 4:5)?

Why is this so hard to do?

### **PERSONAL APPLICATION**

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

## **Day 7**

### **Reading: Romans 1:15-32**

(Take time to read this passage again, letting the truths you have studied this week sink into your mind. You are encouraged to go online and read it through a few times in different versions.)

[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

### **Bible Memory**

*Matthew 5:1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*