



The Self-RIGHTeous Syndrome

The Text: Romans 2:1-24 (Page 1748 in the sanctuary Bible)

The Context: In chapter one, Paul presents the reality and ugly impact of sin. In chapter two, he details a sin that is common among religious people. It is a sin that they often do not see in themselves, though it is present. Jesus described and reacted strongly to it (See Matthew 23). It is the sin of self-righteousness. Other labels of it would include judgmentalism, hypocrisy, arrogance, conceit and false pride.

- **2:1** You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. ²Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. ³So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? ⁴Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

What is the problem?

1.

The Gospel = The "good news" of God's generous initiative, offering forgiveness of our sin through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Ephesians 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

2.

Gentiles	Jews

- **2:5** But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶God "will give to each person according to what he has done." ⁷To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. ⁸But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. ⁹There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; ¹⁰but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹¹For God does not show favoritism. ¹²All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.

A Warning/Challenge:

- 2:14 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, ¹⁵since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) ¹⁶This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

2:14-15 ~ *Essential truths are known in their hearts and thus they are responsible.*

▷ If...

- 2:17 Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and brag about your relationship to God; ¹⁸if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; ¹⁹if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, ²⁰an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law* the embodiment of knowledge and truth
*the law ~ the Old Testament

▷ Then...

- 2:21 You, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? ²²You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?

- 2:24 As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you." Ezekiel 36:22 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone.

Principles To Apply

1

2

A sinner's prayer

Lord, I am a sinner who has offended you. Please forgive me. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins and place my trust in Christ's sacrifice as the only way to be right with you. Thank you for loving me and coming into my heart. I want to follow You and do Your will in my life. In Jesus' name, amen.

TAP

Read the designated Scripture. Reflect on it and write out short responses.

T - **key Truths** = Summary thoughts, principles to live by, observations to remember.

A - **practical Application** = How should I respond? What practical action can I take?

P - **my Prayer response** = My expression to God from what I am reading/thinking.

As you read these select portions of Romans, ask yourself the hard question of how the truths of the scriptures apply to your life right now.
 Mon- **Romans 2:1-24**, Tues- **Romans 3:9-26**, Wed- **Romans 8:1-17**, Thur- **Romans 12:1-17**, Fri- **Romans 13:8-14**

t ^{-key-} truths	
a ^{-practical-} application	
p ^{-my} Prayer <small>response</small>	