

Romans: Verse-by-Verse

Romans 2:11-12

Student Notes:

- **God and Impartiality: Romans 2:11**

NIV: "For God does not show favoritism."

King James Version: "For there is no respect of persons with God."

2 Translations with the same thought: God is righteously impartial. He does not look on outward appearance; he looks at the heart and conduct of every human.

No respect of persons: A combination of the Greek words, "face" and "receive". Greek: "God does not receive your face". See 1 Samuel 16:7: "The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

God does not judge on the basis of the surface: He doesn't "receive face". See: Acts 10:34; Galatians 2:6; Colossians 3:25; I Peter 1:17.

- **How God Judges: Romans 2**

Verse 1: God judges on the basis of knowledge.

Verses 2 and 3: God judges on the basis of truth.

Verses 4 and 5: God judges on the basis of (real) guilt.

Verses 6 through 10: God judges on the basis of deeds.

Verses 11-15: God judges on the basis of impartiality.

- **Impartiality does not mean universality:** See I Corinthians 3:11-15.

When we face the Lord Jesus Christ at the Bema Seat, some of our works will be gold, silver, and precious stones. But some will be wood, hay, and

stubble. What passes the test will be rewarded, but what doesn't pass the test will be consumed – and we will lose that part of our reward. So it's not a matter of uniformity, but impartiality.

- **God Judges According To Our Knowledge (light)**

Verse 12: “All 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.”

If you didn't have the law, you'll be judged as one who didn't have the law. But if you have the law, you'll be judged on the basis of the law. (“First to the Jew, then to the Gentile (Greek).”

God will be completely impartial in his evaluation -- The Jew has the law, but the Gentile doesn't. If someone has the law, he'll be judged on that basis; if he doesn't, he'll be judged on that basis.

Two groups in verse 12: a) “All who sin apart from the law.” b) “All who sin under the law”.

“Apart from the law”: Greek, “anomōs”, designating the Gentiles who do not have the written Scripture. (Also do not have prophets, biblical writers, or Mosaic Law.)

What do they have? Creation -- the evidence of creationism's design.

Romans 1:20: “For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”

What they had was enough –even though they are “anomos” – without Law. The Gentiles will be judged without the Law – but they will still be judged. (See: Jonah 4:10-11)

John MacArthur: “... Statistically speaking ... most people who have lived on the face of the earth have not had the law of God. They have not had the written Scripture.”

- **Perishing (Apart from the Law):**

Verse 12: “All who sin apart from the law will also **perish** apart from the law...”

Greek word for “perish”: “apollumi”, which basically means to destroy. It is used throughout the New Testament. See: Matthew 10:28; Luke 4:34

Greek word “apollumi” does not mean to annihilate, even though it can be translated “to destroy.” Best meaning: Something so ruined it no longer can serve its intended purpose.

Humans were created God’s glory and for fellowship with Him. At the fall they became “apollumi” -- ruined as far as God’s original purpose and intention. See: Isaiah 6:5 – “I am ruined”.

Jesus’ use of “apollumi”: New wine in old wineskins. The wineskins became “apollumi”. They were ruined; they ceased to have any function or usefulness. – Matthew 9:17

“Apollumi” is not annihilation: Revelation 17:8;19:19;20:10. The Beast, Antichrist, and the False Prophet are said to be “apollumi” – ruined as to their original intention and design. They are “destroyed” in that sense.

- **Judged Without (Apart From) The Law:** “All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law...”

The Gentile’s judgment will be commensurate with their knowledge. Even though they didn’t have the law of God, they sinned, and the wages of sin is what? Death.

Just because you do not have the Law of Moses does not mean you haven’t sinned. Humans sin, even if they are without the knowledge of the Law or the Gospel. There are no morally neutral humans. Romans 3:23, “... All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”

Jesus parable in Luke 12: “That servant who knows his master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with

many blows. But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows.”

Applying the parable to the Law: (Jews and Gentiles)

The Jews knew God’s will and rejected it. The Gentiles didn’t have the Law but they still failed to perform the Master’s will. The greater punishment was applied to those who knew the most.

▪ Judged Under The Law:

Verse 12: “All who sin under the law will be judged by the law.”

Who are those who sinned under the law? Simply put, everyone who knew the Law – primarily the Jews who received the special revelation, who had the Word of God. They had the Law, the Prophets, and the Miracles. They had the truth.

Jesus’ words in Matthew 11:21-22:

“Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you.”

Korazin and Bethsaida were both Jewish cities in Jesus’ day. Tyre and Sidon were both Gentile cities. Jesus performed miracles in Korazin and Bethsaida, but they did not embrace him as their Messiah.

Tyre and Sidon were deserving of less punishment because, if they had seen the same miracles of Korazin and Bethsaida, they would have repented long ago.

The Jewish population faced greater judgment on the “Last Day” because they had the greater special revelation.

God judges impartially.