**GOD’S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT**

Romans 2:1-16

Key Verse 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.*

Introductory note[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. To whom is Paul speaking, and why are they without excuse (1)? What do people who judge others think about themselves (2-3)? How is God’s judgment different from human judgment?
2. In what way do people show contempt for God? (4a) Why is God so kind and patient with sinners? (4b) Why is having a stubborn and unrepentant heart so serious? (5a) How is the day of God’s wrath related to his righteous judgment? (5b)
3. What is the general principle of God’s judgment (6)? On what basis does God judge people (7-8)? What are the consequences of God’s judgment (9-10)? What characterizes God’s judgment (11)?
4. In what sense is God’s judgment fair to both those who are apart from the law, and under the law (12-13)? What is the standard of God’s judgment for those who do not have the law (14-15)? What is the ultimate standard of God’s judgment (16)?
1. In 1:18-32 Paul indicted the fallen Gentile world that lived without God. They suppressed the truth by their godlessness and wickedness and became idol worshipers, immoral and depraved. Upon them God’s wrath was being revealed. When we hear this indictment, we may say, “Yes, that is right! Punish those evildoers - they deserve it!” However, Paul makes a sudden shift in chapter 2 from “they” to “you.” Here, “you,” refers to those who pass judgment on others based on their own moral standard. In some sense, it may be more difficult for moralists to accept the gospel because it is so hard to recognize that they are sinners. So they easily judge and condemn others. Paul exposes this hypocrisy by telling us about God’s righteous judgment. In this passage, the words “judge” or “judgment” appear nine times. Paul describes God’s judgment; it is inescapable (1-5), and righteous (6-16). Furthermore, he tells us that God’s real intention is not judgment, but salvation that comes through repentance. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)