

Romans

Lesson 2: Romans 1:18–2:16

We live in a day where megachurch pastors are making their money off messages about positive thinking, self-esteem, and the basic goodness of mankind. In their messages they speak highly of man and little, if ever, about sin. However, in Paul's epistle to the Romans, he wanted to make sure the Romans knew the wretchedness of their hearts, the weight of their sin, and the consequences of it. He says that every person stands guilty before God and is under God's wrath. In Romans Paul gives us a model of how we should share the gospel with others. Before we give them the good news of Jesus, we must give them the "bad" news of the depravity of their heart and their guilt before a holy God. Let's dive in and see what God has to say about the sinfulness of all mankind.

➤ **Read Romans 1:18–23**

1. In verse 18, what is the wrath of God against?
2. How does Paul describe ungodly and unrighteous men in verse 18?
3. According to verse 19, can someone stand before God and say, "I did not know." Why?
4. In verse 20, what has God put on display for all mankind to see? How has He displayed it?
5. What is God's final verdict of all mankind?

Application: When you share the gospel with an unbeliever, where do you start? Where should you start?

6. According to verse 21, what was all mankind created to do?

7. In verse 22, how does man view himself?

8. In verse 23, how is man's foolishness displayed?

Application: What are idols that people have created today? What things in your life take you away from giving glory to God?

➤ **Read Romans 1:24–32**

9. In verse 24, Paul says, “God gave them over.” What did God give them over to?

10. In verse 25, what has the unbelieving person done? What is the result of that sin?

11. In verse 26, Paul says, “God gave them over.” What did God give them over to?

12. What sin is described in verses 26 and 27?

13. In verse 28, Paul says, “God gave them over.” What did God give them over to?

14. In verse 32, what do sinners know is the outcome of their sin?

Application: What are ways Christians give “hearty approval” to sin? Why do you think they do it?
How can you guard your heart from giving approval to sin?

➤ **Read Romans 2:1–16**

15. In verse 1, Paul is speaking to the Jew and moral Gentile who think they are above God’s judgement. What were these religious, moral people doing?

16. In verse 2, how does Paul describe God’s judgment?

Application: God’s kindness, tolerance, and patience are a common grace of God that are meant to lead us to repentance. How have these been displayed in your life?

17. According to verse 5, what are stubborn and unrepentant people doing to themselves?

18. According to verse 6, what will be the basis for every person’s judgment?

19. How does Paul describe the life of a believer in verse 7?

20. How does Paul describe the life of an unbeliever in verse 8?

21. According to verse 11, how does God judge?

22. According to verse 13, who will be justified before God?

23. In verse 15, what has God given mankind to convict and condemn him?

24. In verse 16, what will Christ judge?

Application: What convictions has God given you through this study? What needs to change in your life so that you might bring glory to Him?

Application: Do you think man is “basically good”? How does a right understanding of the heart of man help you to live in this world?

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.