



Interpretive Issue

Romans 1:18-32 – Primarily addresses Gentiles
Romans 2:1-16 – Primarily addresses Jews

Problem:
Romans 2:1a **Therefore** you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment...

- We should expect **“In the same way...”**

Solution: Paul is addressing all people who pass judgment, but it would have special relevance for the Jews.

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Paul Warns of Hypocritical Judgment

Romans 2:1 Therefore **you have no excuse**, everyone of you who passes judgment, **for** in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; **for** you who judge practice the same things.

- “you have no excuse”= should remind us of Rom. 1:20
- Judging another is also condemnatory because it proves a person does have some knowledge of God!
- Ultimately a person is condemned if they judge because they practice “the same things.”

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Paul Confronts Judaism

Romans 2:2 **And we know** that the judgment of God **rightly falls** upon those who practice such things.

- “rightly falls” = kata aletheian – “according to truth”
- Paul and other Jews would agree that God’s judgment is just.
- Paul and other Jews would disagree about whether being born a Jew could shield oneself against God’s judgment!

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No One Should Take God’s Mercy for Granted

Romans 2:3-4 But do you suppose this, **O man**, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, **that you** will escape the judgment of God? **4** Or do you think lightly of the riches of **His kindness** and **tolerance** and **patience**, not knowing that **the kindness of God leads you to repentance**?

- Paul is not addressing people **when** they judge hypocritically but **those** who judge hypocritically.
- Paul refutes an apocryphal book’s idea: “...even if we sin, we are thine” (Wisdom 15:2).

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Applications

1. We should remember that God’s forbearance and mercy with sinners is designed to bring the elect to repentance and glory to Himself.
2. We should not engage in hypocritical judgment of others.

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1. God's Forbearance Brings Him Glory

Romans 2:4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and **tolerance** and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

Romans 3:25-26 ...whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the **forbearance of God** He passed over the sins previously committed; **26** for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, **so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

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1. God's Forbearance Is for the Sake His Elect

2 Peter 3:4, 9 "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation"...The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, **but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.**

2 Peter 3:14-15 Therefore, **beloved**, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, **15** and **regard the patience of our Lord as salvation**; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you...

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2. Avoid Hypocritical Judgment of Others

Matthew 7:1-5 **Do not judge** so that you will not be judged. **2 For in the way you judge, you will be judged;** and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. **3** Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? **4** Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' and behold, the log is in your own eye? **5** You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

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2. Avoid Hypocritical Judgment of Others

James 4:11-12 Do not speak against one another, brethren. He who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge of it. **12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge**, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor?
