

LESSON 2 - ROMANS 1:18-2:16: NO ONE IS RIGHTEOUS

I. Introduction

Romans 1:18-2:16 addresses the universal problem of sin and the righteous judgment of God. In this passage, Paul explains that God's wrath is revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth through their wickedness (1:18). He argues that God's existence and divine nature are evident in creation, so humanity is without excuse for rejecting Him. Despite this clear revelation, people turned to idolatry, exchanging the truth of God for lies, leading to moral decay and destructive behaviors (1:19-32). This downward spiral into sin includes sexual immorality, greed, envy, and other vices, which Paul lists as evidence of humanity's rebellion against God.

In chapter 2, Paul shifts his focus to those who might look down on others for their sin, particularly the Jewish people or religiously moral individuals. He warns them that they are not exempt from God's judgment. God's judgment is based on truth and is impartial, applying to both Jews and Gentiles. Even though some may rely on the Law or boast of their moral superiority, they will still be judged according to their deeds. Paul stresses that those who persist in doing good will experience eternal life, while those who reject God's truth will face His wrath (2:6-11).

Paul also emphasizes that mere possession of the Law is not enough. It is one's response to God's law and the heart's attitude that matters. He notes that Gentiles, who do not have the Law, can still fulfill its requirements by acting in accordance with their conscience, revealing that God's judgment will be based on their actions and the intentions of their hearts (2:12-16).

This section emphasizes the universal need for salvation and God's impartiality in judgment.

II. Study the Scriptures: Read the Passage Romans 1:18-2:16

Note your thoughts as you read:

Write down any questions that come to mind as you read:

III. Think Through the Following Questions:

1. In Romans 1:18, Paul writes that God's wrath is revealed against those who suppress the truth. What does it mean to "suppress the truth" and why is this so serious in God's eyes?
2. Paul mentions that God's divine nature is evident in creation (1:20). How does nature reflect God's power and glory? How can this revelation help us understand the responsibility of all people to recognize Him?
3. In Romans 1:24-32, Paul describes the consequences of humanity's rejection of God. What are some of the "vices" or sinful behaviors listed, and how do they illustrate the spiral into moral decay when people ignore God?
4. In chapter 2, Paul warns those who judge others (2:1-3). Why is it wrong to judge others based on their sins when we are all guilty of sin? How does God's impartiality affect how we view others' actions?
5. Paul talks about how God's judgment is based on actions and the heart (2:6-11). How does this challenge the idea that simply knowing or claiming to follow the Law (or having religious knowledge) is enough for salvation?
6. What does it mean in Romans 2:14-15 that Gentiles, who do not have the Law, can still fulfill its requirements by acting according to their conscience? How does this passage challenge our understanding of accountability before God?

IV. Lessons Learned: Are there any new things you learned from this passage today?

V. Application: How Do You think this will impact your thinking and/or actions going forward?