

## Parson to Person

### ROMANS CH. 2 and CH. 3 OVERVIEW

*“Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself”* (Romans 2:1 NKJV).

In order to properly understand Romans 2–3, one must get the big picture of where Paul was going in the letter—otherwise a potential misunderstanding or misapplication may occur.

For example, when Paul said that God will reward those who “do good” with everlasting life, but in contrast will reward indignation, wrath and tribulation upon those who “do evil” (2:6–10), it is easy to forget that there are none who “do good” (3:10–12). When Paul said that “the doers of the law will be justified” (2:13), it is easy to forget or misunderstand that he also said (and knows) that by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified (3:20).

Therefore, to properly understand where Paul is going with all of this, we must read and understand the whole of chapters 2 and 3 in the fullest context. When Paul quoted truths communicated in the law (and about the law), he was bringing to the Jews (in Rome) phrases and quotes they would have been (or should have been) familiar with.

We must remember that the Jews boasted in the law and that many of them felt that they were “keepers of the law.” However, this arrogance (also addressed by Jesus) must be destroyed in order to allow the men and women hearing the Gospel to see their need for a savior—thus the whole of the message found in the two chapters.

Paul told the Romans that the law was intended to show men their sinfulness. In like manner he also mentioned this to the Galatians.

In Romans he said, *“Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin”* (Romans 3:20 NKJV), and to the Galatians he said, *“What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor”* (Galatians 3:19–25 NKJV).

Within these passages we understand where Paul was going with the Romans—to the same place he went with everyone else! He wanted all to know that *“all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23 NKJV), and therefore, the only justification man may enjoy is found by faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone, to the glory of God the Father—not to any credit of man.

*“Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law”* (Romans 3:27–28 NKJV). Praise the Lord we are! Amen?

I love you all, Pastor Paul