

Romans

God's Judgment and the Law ([Romans 2:12-29](#))

Read: God's Judgment and the Law (2:12-29) (1/2)

12 For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. 13 For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. 14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them 16 on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

17 But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God 18 and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; 19 and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— 21 you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. 24 For, as it is written, "The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

25 For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. 26 So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? 27 Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. 28 For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. 29 But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

Explain: God's Judgment and the Law (2:12-29) (1/2)

Are there any literary/structural observations?

What do the words mean?

12 For all who have sinned [second aorist active indicative; missed the mark and not share in the prize, erred, sinned, offended, trespassed] **without the law** [lawlessly, without the law] **will also perish** [future middle indicative; be destroyed fully, perish, lose, die] **without the law** [lawlessly, without the law; same word used earlier in **Romans 2:12**], **and all who have sinned** [second aorist active indicative; missed the mark and not share in the _____, erred, sinned, offended, trespassed; same word used earlier in **Romans 2:12**] **under the law** [*nomos*; regulation, law of _____, law; this word will be repeated ____ times in this passage] **will be judged** [*krino*; future middle indicative; distinguish, decide, try, condemn, punish, avenge, conclude, condemn, damn, decree, determine, esteem, judge, sue, ordain, call in question, sentence, think; showed up three times in **Romans 2:1, 3**] **by the law** [*nomos*]. **13 For it is not the hearers** [listeners, hearers] **of the law** [*nomos*] **who are righteous** [equitable, innocent, holy, just, righteous; same word used in **Romans 1:17**] **before God, but the doers** [_____, doers (used of poets)] **of the law** [*nomos*] **who will be justified** [future middle indicative; rendered just, rendered innocent, freed, justified, righteous].

14 For when Gentiles [non-Jewish, Gentiles, heathens, nations, peoples], **who do not have** [present active participle; have, hold] **the law** [*nomos*], **by nature** [growth, _____ production, native disposition, usage, kind, nature; used in **Romans 1:26**] **do** [present active subjunctive; make, do] **what the law** [*nomos*; used in **Romans 2:12, 13, 14**] **requires, they are** [present middle indicative; have, hold] **a law** [*nomos*]; **to themselves, even though they do not have** [present active participle] **the law** [*nomos*].

15 They show [present middle indicative; indicate, do, show] **that the work** [toil, act, deed, doing, labor, work] **of the law** [*nomos*] **is written** [inscribed, written] **on their hearts** [heart, thoughts, feelings, mind], **while their conscience** [co-perception, moral consciousness, conscience] **also bears witness** [present active participle; testifies jointly, corroborates by _____, bears witness], **and their conflicting thoughts** [computations, reasonings, imaginations, thoughts] **accuse** [present active participle; _____, accuse, be a plaintiff, charge with some offense] **or even excuse** [present middle participle; give a legal plea of oneself, exculpate, answer for, make a _____, excuse, speak for self] **them** **16 on that day when, according to my gospel** [good message; used in **Romans 1:1, 16**], **God judges** [*krino*; future active indicative; used in **Romans 2:1, 3, 12**] **the secrets** [concealed, privates, hidden, secrets] **of men by Christ** ["anointed"] **Jesus** ["Jehovah is salvation;" used in **Romans 1:1**].

17 But if you call [present middle indicative; named further, denominated, call] **yourself a Jew and rely on** [present middle indicative; settle on, remain, rely on, rest in] **the law** [nomos] **and boast** [vaunt, boast, glory, joy, rejoice] **in God** **18 and know** [present active indicative; know, are aware of, feel, perceive, understand] **his will** [determination, choice, purpose, decree, volition, inclination, desire, pleasure, will] **and approve** [present active indicative; test, approve, allow, discern, examine, like, prove, try] **what is excellent** [present active participle; borne through, transported, reported, bettered, excellent, published, of more value; (JF note: I am confused on the proper application of the definition of this word—and so was A.T. Robertson)], **because you are instructed** [katecheo; present middle participle; sounded down into the ears, indoctrinated, _____, apprised of, informed, taught, instructed] **from the law** [nomos];

19 and if you are sure [second perfect active indicative; convinced, assented, rely, agreed, assured, believed, have confidence in, contented, make friend, obeyed, persuaded, trusted, yielded] **that you yourself are** [present middle infinitive] **a guide** [conductor, teacher, _____, leader] **to the blind** [opaque, _____, blind], **a light** [luminousness, _____, light] **to those who are in darkness** [_____, obscurity, darkness], **20 an instructor** [trainer, teacher, discipliner, instructor] **of the foolish** [mindless, stupid, ignorant, egotistic, rash, unbelieving, foolish, unwise], **a teacher** [instructor, doctor, master, teacher] **of children** [infants, simple-minded, _____ Christians, babes, childish], **having** [present active participle; having, holding] **in the law** [nomos] **the embodiment** [formation, appearance, semblance, formula, form] **of knowledge** [knowing, knowledge, science] **and truth—** **21 you then who teach** [present active participle] **others, do you not teach** [present active indicative; same word used earlier in [Romans 2:21](#)] **yourself? While you preach** [present active participle; _____, preach, proclaim, publish] **against stealing** [present active infinitive], **do you steal** [present active indicative]? **22 You who say** [present active participle; lay forth, relate, discourse, ask, bid, boast, call, describe, give out, name, put forth, say, speak, tell, utter] **that one must not commit adultery** [present active infinitive], **do you commit adultery** [present active indicative; same word used earlier in [Romans 2:22](#)]? **You who abhor** [present middle participle; are disgusted by, detest, abhor, abominate] **idols** [images, heathen gods, worship of heathen gods], **do you rob temples** [present active indicative; commit sacrilege, rob temples]? **23 You who boast** [present middle indicative; vaunt, boast, glory, joy, rejoice; same word used in [Romans 2:17](#)] **in the law** [nomos] **dishonor** [present active indicative; render infamous, despise, dishonor, suffer shame, entreat shamefully] **God by breaking** [violating, breaking, transgressing] **the law** [nomos]. **24 For, as it is written** [perfect middle indicative; written, described], **“The name of God is blasphemed** [present middle indicative; vilified, spoken impiously of, blasphemed, defamed, railed on, reviled, spoken _____ against] **among the Gentiles because of you.”**

25 For circumcision [the rite of circumcision] **indeed** [indeed, truly, verily] **is of value** [present active indicative; is useful, benefits, advantages, betters, prevails, profits] **if you obey** [present active subjunctive; perform repeatedly or _____, execute, accomplish, collect, fare, commit, do, exact, keep, require; used in **Romans 1:32; 2:1, 2, 3**] **the law** [*nomos*], **but if you break** [present middle subjunctive; violation, breaking, transgression; used in **Romans 2:23**] **the law** [*nomos*], **your circumcision** [the rite of circumcision; same word as earlier in **Romans 2:25**] **becomes** [second perfect active indicative] **uncircumcision** [not circumcised, uncircumcised]. **26 So** [a connecting word], **if a man who is uncircumcised** [not circumcised, uncircumcised; used in **Romans 2:25**] **keeps** [present active subjunctive; watches, guards, preserves, obeys, keeps, saves] **the precepts** [equitable deeds, statutes, decisions, judgments, justifications, ordinances, righteousness] **of the law** [*nomos*], **will not his uncircumcision** [not circumcised, uncircumcised; used in **Romans 2:25**] **be regarded** [future middle indicative; _____, estimated, concluded, despised, esteemed, imputed, laid, numbered, reasoned, reckoned, supposed, thought of] **as circumcision** [the rite of circumcision; same word as used twice in **Romans 2:25**] **? 27 Then he who is physically** [growth, natural production, native disposition, usage, kind, nature; used in **Romans 1:26; 2:14**] **uncircumcised** [not circumcised, uncircumcised; used in **Romans 2:25**] **but keeps** [present active participle; completes, executes, concludes, discharges, accomplishes, makes an end, expires, fills up, finishes, goes over, pays, performs] **the law** [*nomos*] **will condemn** [*krino*; future active indicative; used in **Romans 2:1, 3, 12, 16**] **you who have the written code** [writing, letter, note, epistle, book, learning, scripture] **and circumcision** [the rite of circumcision; same word as used in **Romans 2:25, 26**] **but break** [violate, break, transgress] **the law** [*nomos*]. **28 For no one is** [present middle indicative] **a Jew who is merely one outwardly** [shiningly, apparently, publicly, openly, outwardly, manifestly], **nor is circumcision** [the rite of circumcision; same word as used in **Romans 2:25, 26**] **outward** [shiningly, apparently, publicly, openly, outwardly, manifestly; same as used earlier in **Romans 2:28**] **and physical** [flesh, meat, human, physical]. **29 But a Jew is one inwardly** [concealed, privately, hidden, inwardly, secretly], **and circumcision** [the rite of circumcision; same word as used twice in **Romans 2:25, 26, 28**] **is a matter of the heart** [heart, thoughts, feelings, mind], **by the Spirit** [current, breath, soul, spirit], **not by the letter** [writing, letter, note, epistle, book, learning, scripture; same as used in **Romans 2:27**]. **His praise** [laudation, commendable thing, praise] **is not from man but from God.**

Your homework: complete the rest of the handout (page 18) on your own (remember to ask, read (use the English text, the meanings of the Greek words, and the Basics of Greek Verbs to help), talk, and then use resources: commentaries, etc.).

Basics of Greek Verbs

A Greek verb has a person, a number, a tense, a voice, and a mood.

Person (the form of the verb)

- First person: the person speaking
- Second person: the person being spoken to
- Third person: the person being spoken of or about

Number (the reference of the verb)

- Singular: referencing one
- Plural: referencing more than one

Tense (the time and kind of action of the verb)

- Present: right-now continuous
- Aorist: simple occurrence without regard for the amount of time taken to accomplish the action
- Imperfect: action continually or repeatedly happening in past time
- Perfect: completed action with the results continuing
- Future: anticipated action
- Pluperfect: completed action that existed at some point in the past

Voice (the performer of the verb)

- Active: the subject performs the action
- Passive: the subject is the recipient of the action
- Middle: the subject acts in his own interest or performs action on himself or for his own benefit

Mood (the relationship to reality of the verb)

- Indicative: statement of fact
- Imperative: a command
- Subjunctive: probability or possibility
- Optative: possibility (more remotely possible than subjunctive)
- Participle: verbal adjective—can add an -ing
- Infinitive: verbal noun—"to" plus the word

Summarized and adapted from Corey Keating (ntgreek.org) and Strong's Concordance

Are there any repeated words?

Are there any repeated topics?

What are some observations of the text?

Apply (What is the point?)

Personalize (What do we do with that?)

Next week: God's Judgment and the Law (2:12-29) (2/2)

Homework

Resources (our helps—order matters)

- Holy Spirit
- Bible: **Romans** (ESV)
- Church: bit.ly/FlemingSS
- Tools: bit.ly/romans2017

Our process

- Ask (the Holy Spirit for help)
- Read (**Romans**)
- Talk (about **Romans**—bit.ly/romans2017group)
- Send (feedback to jim314@yahoo.com by Wed)