

# God Knows the Truth

## Romans 2.1-16

The Apostle Paul in this section of Romans adopts a literary style called the “diatribe” – a sort of debate between the author and a nonexistent imaginary critic. Anonymous though Paul’s critic may have been, there is no doubt that he represented a class of people who refused to be identified with those outlined in the first chapter. The truth in focus in this passage of Scripture is that none of us have any excuse.

*“You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.” Romans 2.1*

We will not be able to stand before God on the great and terrible Day of Judgment and open our mouths to say anything in our own defense. We will stand guilty as charged. God’s judgment will be just, and our false morality will be exposed for the hypocrisy that it is. It is indeed worth noting the ways in which God’s judgment will be exercised.

### God’s Judgment is Based on Truth

*“Now we know that God’s judgment against those who do such things is **based on truth**. So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God’s judgment? Or do you show contempt for the riches of his **kindness, tolerance and patience**, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance?” Romans 2.2-4*

### God’s Judgment is According to What We Have Done

*“But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God’s wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. God will give to each person according to what he has done. To those who by persistence in **doing good** seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who **reject the truth** and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.” Romans 2.5-8*

*“Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be **ready to do whatever is good**, to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.*

*This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may **be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good**. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. Our people must learn to **devote themselves to doing what is good**, in order that they may provide for daily necessities and not live unproductive lives.” Titus 3.1-8, 14*

### God’s Judgment is Without Favoritism

*“There will be trouble and distress **for every human being** who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone **who does good**: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism. All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is **those who obey the law who will be declared righteous**. (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)” Romans 2.12-15*

### God’s Judgment Excludes Nothing

*“This will take place on the day when God will judge men’s **secrets through** Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.” Romans 2.16*

We need to understand that we are without excuse. We also need to know and act upon the offer of forgiveness that God offers through Jesus Christ.

*“The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.  
He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever;  
he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.  
For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.”  
Psalm 103.8-13*