

THE BOOK OF ROMANS



3. Man's Need (2)

Introduction

As we read the newspapers and watch the news on television we see the consequences of sin all around us: there are conflicts, robberies, murders, bombings, and many other terrible things taking place. In the Book of Romans the Apostle Paul shows us that all men are sinners. In the first chapter he tells us how the Gentiles are sinners, and now in chapter 2 he says that the Jews are also sinners in God's sight. Although you may not be Jewish by race, many Christians have the same wrong attitudes as the Jews did at that time.

Scripture Reading: Romans 2:1-16

- ☉ Why do we need to be careful before judging others? What will happen if we do? Romans 2:1, 3, 5

(We need to be careful not to judge others because we often do the same things ourselves. By judging others we are condemning ourselves, and bringing ourselves under God's judgment.)

- ☉ What is God's judgment based on according to Romans 2:2 and 6-10?

(It is based on truth and will be according to what we have done in this life.)

- ☉ What does verse 12 mean do you think? Also look at Luke 12:48.

(God is just and fair, so he will judge according to the light that a person has received. The more a person has received, the more will be expected of him or her.)

- ☉ How should we respond when we see sin in the lives of others? Romans 2:4, Galatians 6:1-2, James 5:9

(First of all we need to repent of our own sin and guard our own lives from sin. Then we need to be careful not to compare ourselves with others or grumble against them.)

The Apostle Paul is saying in this chapter that the Jewish people at that time often judged others. They were proud that they belonged to God and had been given the Law, and yet they did not keep the law themselves! Read Romans 2:17-24.

- ☉ What were the results of this hypocrisy? Romans 2:23, 24

(It dishonoured God and they were discrediting him among the others nations of the world.)

- ☉ In what ways can we as Christians do the same thing as the Jews did that at that time? What can we learn from these verses? Share.

- ☉ What is the true evidence that a person belongs to God, for Jew and Gentile alike according to Romans 2:28-29?

(The true evidence is that our hearts are circumcised by the Holy Spirit.)

- ⊗ What does it mean to be circumcised in our hearts? Discuss.

Conclusion

It's so easy to see the faults in others! It's so easy to criticise and condemn! Let's guard our hearts, and allow the Holy Spirit to work in us, so our lives bring credit to our Heavenly Father. Remember that each one of us will stand before the Lord. Let's be like the ones it speaks about in Romans 2:7, "To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honour and immortality, he will give eternal life." Amen!