

Devotional Questions – Romans 2:1-16

1. *What is the purpose of God showing His goodness/kindness* to men (Romans 2:4)? *The correct term is “**forbearance**” because it means God’s “**longsuffering**” with unrepentant sinners as in the case of rebellious Israel as Paul explains. “**And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness**” Acts 13:18.*

Why are they described as the ‘riches’ of God?

How can men despise the riches of God?

2. *What is the connection between repentance (Romans 2:4) and doing good works (Romans 2:6)?*
3. *Why were the Jews first in judgement (Romans 2:9)?*
4. *What is the judgement of God based on (Romans 2:2)?*
5. *How do Gentiles show the work of the law is ‘written in their hearts’ (Romans 2:15)?*
6. *Why does Paul say that the final Judge of all men is Jesus (Romans 2:16)?*
Why does Paul say He will judge the ‘secret’ things?

Devotional Questions – Romans 2:1-16, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Romans* pp 69-90 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1487 for detailed comment.

1. *What is the purpose of God showing His goodness/kindness* to men (Romans 2:4)?* *The correct term is ***“forbearance”*** because it means God's ***“longsuffering”*** with unrepentant sinners as in the case of rebellious Israel as Paul explains. ***“And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness”*** Acts 13:18.

God's purpose in that respect is as Paul explained it to the Athenians.

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” Acts 17:30-31.

Therefore ***“...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation...”*** 2 Corinthians 6:2.

Why are they described as the ‘riches’ of God?

They are God's riches according to Job 2:4 ***“And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life”*** and that which ***“leadeth thee to repentance”*** Romans 2:4 is ***“the way of life”*** embarked upon by a forsaking of the broad way for ***“the strait gate”*** Matthew 7:13 as King Solomon the Lord Jesus Christ urged.

“The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath” Proverbs 15:24.

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” Matthew 7:13-14.

How can men despise the riches of God?

- *They disobey God's commands*

“But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments” Nehemiah 9:16.

- *They “go right on their ways”* Proverbs 9:15 instead of following King David's wisdom. ***“I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies”*** Psalm 119:59.

- *They mock and procrastinate*

“And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter” Acts 17:32.

In sum, they forget King Solomon's warning.

“He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy” Proverbs 29:1.

2. *What is the connection between repentance (Romans 2:4) and doing good works (Romans 2:6)?*

The one is evidence of the other. Note especially Paul's case, predicated on obedience to God, see *Question 1* above, first bullet point.

“But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance” Matthew 3:7-8.

“Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance” Acts 26:20.

3. *Why were the Jews first in judgement (Romans 2:9)?*

They were the *first* to receive the words of God and **“the gospel of Christ”** Romans 1:16, which they then rejected. The Jews should therefore be the first in judgement.

“Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it” Acts 7:51-53.

“Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles” Acts 13:46.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” Romans 1:16.

Today’s believer in the light of Romans 1:16 should aim to follow Paul’s exhortation to Timothy.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God” 2 Timothy 1:7-8.

4. *What is the judgement of God based on (Romans 2:2)?*

Romans 2:2 states **“But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.”**

Romans 2:12 states as a confirmation **“For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law.”**

God’s judgement is always **“according to truth”** that is **“the truth of God”** Romans 1:25, 3:7, 15:8 in that **“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do”** Hebrews 4:13.

Today’s believer can take comfort in Psalm 19:9 **“the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether”** in that - and for Mike’s bike stolen on September 22nd 1999 - **“But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons”** Colossians 3:25.

5. *How do Gentiles show the work of the law is ‘written in their hearts’ (Romans 2:15)?*

Romans 2:15 states **“Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another”** showing that **“the work of the law written in their hearts”** is manifest in the operation of conscience.

Abimelech is an example as he testifies rightly to God **“in the integrity of my heart and innocency of my hands have I done this”** Genesis 20:5.

The importance of conscience is such that today’s believer should aim to follow Paul’s exhortation.

“And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men” Acts 24:16.

6. *Why does Paul say that the final Judge of all men is Jesus (Romans 2:16)?*

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself explained why.

“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son...And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man” John 5:22, 27.

Why does Paul say He will judge the ‘secret’ things?

The scriptures explain why in that it is the Lord Himself Who knows these things.

“And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?” Matthew 9:4.

“And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?” Mark 2:8.

“But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man” John 2:24-25.

“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do” Hebrews 4:13.

Today’s believer should therefore follow King David’s wisdom.

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer” Psalm 19:14.