

## ROMANS: "Transformed by Grace"

(Rom. 2:1-16; Rev. 20:11-15; Matthew 7:21-23)

**Romans ch. 2 does not show people how to be saved; it reminds people why they are lost & in need of salvation:**

### READ Romans 2:1-16

"Therefore **you** have no excuse, you *foolish* person, everyone *of you* who passes judgment; for in that *matter* in which you judge someone else, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. <sup>2</sup> And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.<sup>3</sup> But do you suppose this, you *foolish* person who passes judgment on those who practice such things, and *yet* does them *as well*, that you will escape the judgment of God? <sup>4</sup> Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and <sup>(His)</sup> restraint and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? <sup>5</sup> But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, <sup>6</sup> who will repay each person according to his **deeds**: <sup>7</sup> to those who by perseverance in doing good - seek glory, honor, and immortality, *He will give* eternal life; <sup>8</sup> but to those who are self-serving and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, *He will give* wrath and indignation.<sup>9</sup> *There will be* tribulation and distress <sup>[g]</sup>for every soul of mankind who does evil, <sup>[h]</sup>for the Jew first and also <sup>[i]</sup>for the Greek, <sup>10</sup> but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who does what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>11</sup> For there is no partiality with God. <sup>12</sup> For all who have sinned without the Law [i.e. gentiles] will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law [i.e. Jews] will be judged by the Law; <sup>13</sup> for *it is* not the hearers of the Law *who* are righteous before God, but the doers of the Law *who* will be justified. <sup>14</sup> For when Gentiles who do not have the Law instinctively perform the *requirements* of the Law, these, though not having the Law, are a law to themselves, <sup>15</sup> **in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience testifying and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,** <sup>16</sup> on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of mankind through Christ Jesus."

-Ch. 1 =lists **20 "Gentile" sins** & **Ch. 2 "Jewish" sins** = sin is sin to God. BOTH are sinful, & both **(ALL) are guilty before God**

-Ch. 1 = Open sin and willful rebellion among the gentiles = focuses on gen. revelation

-Ch. 2 =To "hidden" sin/heart; hidden pride (judging others) = when in private/hearts – **commit the very same sins.** = both are damning; there is NO scenario that visible/invisible sin = **unjudged**

**To JEWS:** Vs. 5: **But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,** -The Jews reject Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God = they still are under God's wrath & judgment to come - John. 3:18 "He who believes in Jesus is not judged; he who does not believe (in Jesus) has been judged/condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son.."

\*The Jews are hoping to get into heaven by "perfectly" keeping the Law =by good works

\*Also, **Most** people are banking on the reality that their own actions, their own goodness, their good deeds and desires (outweighing their bad deeds) will be **ENOUGH** to get them into heaven. People are hoping and striving that their lives will count enough to go heaven.

\*The presupposition they are believing is two-fold: **A.** People (all people) are basically "**good**."

**B.** God is good. And since God is good, a good God who loves people will **never** send good people to **hell**.

### **5 reasons why “Good” people will be disqualified from heaven and salvation**

1. Many people live “good” lives but **reject** God’s **kindness** and blessing as He has lavished truth & blessing upon them.

-God’s kindness towards them is common grace to **LEAD** them to Him. = Grace to the lost!

**VS. 4:** Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and (His) restraint and patience, not knowing (=unaware) that (it’s) the kindness of God (that) leads you to repentance?

-The longer a person rejects God’s kindness toward them, the more inexcusable they become when they are finally judged

2. Many people live “good” lives but reject **Jesus** as God’s ultimate act of **love** and kindness toward us; = there can be NO salvation outside of Jesus Christ (Act 4:12; Jn 14:6).

**Vss. 5-6:** But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, <sup>6</sup>who will repay each person according to his **deeds**:

-Every minute we are outside of Jesus, by our own actions, choices, and open rebellion against God...**we are storing up** for ourselves God’s imminent wrath (divine anger) and judgment due for our sin.

**\*Notice Vs. 6** God who will repay each person according to his *own* deeds: If you are outside of Christ, then Jesus’ blood/atoning sacrifice/forgiveness (Christ’s PERFECT & FINISHED work of the cross = the ULTIMATE good deed & only one that counts to God)– does **NOT** extend to you. [=you are on your own & you will be judged BASED upon your own “good” deeds. Rev. 20:11-15 “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”=Bad news, YOUR deeds on this earth will NEVER measure up & **you will be** found wanting & rejected by God because you rejected Jesus Christ & His gift of salvation.

3. Many people live “good” lives and believe that their **deeds** (good works) will be evaluated by God compared to their own **bad** deeds or compared to **other** people’s bad deeds. **BUT**, their good works will be compared to God Himself = *THE* standard of all righteousness and holiness. And we will all fall short of His standard (Rom. 3:23). That which is unholy and unclean has NO part of God and will NOT be allowed to enter His presence (Hab. 1:13)

**Vss. 7-8:** “to those who by perseverance in doing good - seek [God’s] glory & honor, and immortality, He will give (grant) eternal life; <sup>8</sup>but to those who are self-serving and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, He will give (grant) wrath and indignation.

4. Many people live “good” lives and believe because they are special, or are part of a special people or have received special privileges in this life that they will automatically be granted entrance into heaven. **WRONG! God is NO respecter of persons** (Kings or paupers); He “does not play favorites” with heaven. (Dt. 10:17; Acts 10:34; 1Pt.1:17; Col 3:25)

**Vss. 9-11:** *There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of mankind who does evil, for the Jew first and also for the Greek (Gentiles) <sup>10</sup> but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who does what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. <sup>11</sup> For there is no partiality with God.* \*Jews think they are golden just because they are Jewish. =Jeh.Witn/Catholics

5. Many people live “good” lives & believe that because they **feel** they have loved God, had a spiritual or religious **experience**, have been faithful to attend **church**, to witness to other people, or even have experienced a miracle of some sort – that that guarantees them entrance into heaven. **Vs. 16:** *On the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of mankind through Christ Jesus.* -God truly knows our heart; either born-again or not. **Preg?/not**  
-Matthew 7:21-23 *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter.*” <sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many [s]miracles?’<sup>23</sup> And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; leave Me, you who practice lawlessness.’*

\*Salvation is **not** a matter of being good enough; of doing good enough works/deeds; of loving enough; of being pure enough; of obeying the law enough; of being baptized enough; Church ...

1-Eph. 2:8-9 *“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this *is* not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*

2-Acts 15:11 *“it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”*

3-Eph. 1:7 *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.”*

4-Rom. 3:24 *“we are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”*

5-Rom. 6:23 *“For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ”*

6-Rom. 9:16 *“So then, it does not depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.”*

7-Eph. 2:5 *“It is God who made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved!”*

\***After** we are saved by His Grace = we are saved 1) to be made into Christ's image (Rom. 8:29) (=sanctification -a process that will be carried out the rest of our life); we are saved 2) to bear His image to the lost world in HOW we live out that saving, life-transforming faith = **via our love**

-Eph. 2:10 *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”*

-Eph. 1:18-20 *“I pray that the eyes of your heart <sup>[a]</sup>may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the **strength of His might** <sup>20</sup> which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead .”*

-Matthew 5:16 *“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

## **APPLICATION:**

-What are you really trusting in to go to heaven when you die? Self? Works? God's goodness?

**Or** a transforming faith & saving trust relationship with Jesus Christ?

-How are you living out your faith boldly to a watching world? Your Neighborhood? Work? Sch.?

-Who do you know is trusting in their good works to go to heaven? When will you share Gospel?