



<sup>1</sup> Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. (ESV)

*The setting...*

Romans 1:16-17 are the answer to how we obtain righteousness to escape the wrath of God (Romans 1:18).

God manifests His wrath against the Gentiles and their ungodliness and unrighteousness.

He has abandoned them to their sin.

And now Paul hears, "Amen! Quite right. I am in absolute agreement."

*Therefore...*

Paul's response, "You think you are in agreement with what I am saying, but you are not, and I am going to prove it."

Who is Paul talking to? A moral pagan? A Jew? (v. 1, 9, 11)

Why do the Jews object to the gospel?

- They felt no need for this message of salvation because they are already in a right relationship with God
- The Gentiles could not possibly be saved since they wanted nothing to do with God

The preaching of Christ in the Gospels made the Jews feel like sinners and they hated Him for that (Romans 3:23).

Paul hears, "Right old chap, God's wrath is upon those Gentiles. Afterall, *they are Gentiles*. Thank God we're safe!"

And so, our misguided friend he misses the point... It isn't *who* you are, it is *what* you are, a sinner.

Mistakes made by the Jews:

- "We are God's chosen as Jews." (Romans 2:1-16)
- "We have the law. God gave it to us proving that we are His people and we are saved." (Romans 2:17-24)
- "We have circumcision. We are not like those sinful Gentiles. We are set apart!" (Romans 2:18-29)

The Jews were God's chosen people, who were given the Scriptures, who read and studied them. They gloried in the Scriptures! In spite of that, the Jews crucified their own Messiah, prevented the Gentiles from being saved and did their best to exterminate Christianity. They examined the Scripture with *prejudice*.

Do we categorize ourselves and then search the Scriptures to bolster our argument? I am a Calvinist! An Arminian? A Methodist? A Baptist? You are a Christian primarily. Don't use labels.

Are you blind to your own sins? Do you see a sermon as applicable to someone else, but not to yourself?

Do you deny the foundational doctrine of justification by faith? "I am a Christian, I was born in the United States...or my parents are Christians...or I am quite moral and respectable...or look at my good works... or I take Communion!"

Is doctrine important? Avoid separation of doctrine and life. I am a Jew. I can live any way I want. (John 13:17; Matthew 7:21; John 8:31-32; Titus 2:11-14)

How does this apply to *you*? Don't read Scripture academically. Don't judge others by it, judge yourself.