

Read Romans 2:1 – 16.

1. The list in Romans 1:18 – 32 may prompt a self-righteous response in readers: “Well .... Others may act like that, but not me.” What does Paul say to such moralists in 2:1 – 4?
2. How does the attitude of those in 2:3 resemble the attitude of the pagans in 1:18 – 32? What are the possible effects of God’s kindness (v4)? What does an unrepentant heart say about a person’s relationship to God (v4, 5)?
3. What is the point of Paul’s discussion about works in v6 – 11? Is he saying that works “saves” anyone?
4. What can we learn about God’s judgement in 2:1 – 16? By what standards will the Gentiles be judged? The Jews?
5. Many non-Christians have high moral standards. How can we use their own standards to help them see their need of Christ?

Read Romans 2:17 – 29.

6. In v17 – 29 Paul focuses his attention on a hypothetical Jew. How does such a person view themselves and others (v17-20)?
7. Why would non-Jews blaspheme God’s name because of such people (v21-24)?

8. How has religious hypocrisy hurt the cause of Christ in our day?
  
9. Jews placed great value on circumcision because it was the visible sign that they were God's people. How had some of them confused the sign with what it signified (v25-29)? What kind of circumcision is God really looking for? (c/f Deut. 10:16 and Jer. 9:25, 26)
  
10. How might religious people today have a similar misunderstanding about baptism or some other ritual or practice?
  
11. How can this chapter help us to more effectively share the gospel with respectable, religious or moral non-Christians?