

INTRODUCTION

Romans 1:18 - 2:16 moves us out of the introductory material of verses 1-17. With this second portion of the letter, we dive into the deep end on the theme of Godly and human judgment, which comes about because of ungodliness and wickedness. What can be seen is that God is a righteous judge. This will be good news if you are in Christ; it is bad news if you are not in Christ.

Keep up: complete N.T. Wright, *Romans: 18 Studies for Individuals and Groups*, p 15-19.

ROMANS 1:18 - 2:16

To advance our understanding of this section of Romans, John Stott suggests that verses 1:16-20 be read as a dialogue.¹ There is a connection between the Gospel (1:16-17), the wrath of God (1:18-20; I extend the dialogue through verse 23), and the results of God's wrath (1:24 - 2:16).

Romans 1:18-23 → God reveals God

- God can be known by _____ revelation. This means that God can be generally known by everyone. Creation is one example of this.
- Since God has revealed God's self in this general sense, no one is excused from a general acceptance of the fact of God's existence.
- Denial of God's existence is the result of _____ thinking, and the evidence of a _____ mind.

Romans 1:24-32 → When God lets go

- There is a point when God will stand down and allow persons to engage in, employ, and encourage acts of unrighteousness.
- Truth is replaced by _____, natural is replaced by _____, and righteousness is replaced by _____.

Romans 2:1-16 → When the righteous God judges

- No one is excused.
- God's standards are applied.
- Everyone is given the _____ to make it right with God.
- God's grace is revealed through _____.

¹ John Stott. *Romans: Encountering the Gospel's Power* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press 1998) p.13-14.