



Sermon Discussion Guide

September 7, 2025 | Romans 2:12-29 | Brad

SUMMARY

Big Idea: God is Right to Punish the Religious

Our time in Gd's court continues. Charges were brought in chapter 1:18-32. Our defense began in chapter 2. Last week (2:1-11) our defense for why God should accept and approve of us was based on all the "really" bad things we think we have not done. Not successful in that attempt, this week, in 2:12-29, our defense shifts to thinking God will accept us because of all the good things we have done - even our religious privileges, knowledge and practices. The response? Guilty. Our "good works," they do not outweigh or erase our law-breaking. More than that, our works are only actually "good," if they flow out of a heart that has already received God's favor, not as a means to earn it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Intro:

1. Today, right now, is God happy with you? Yes or No?
 - a. Why did you answer that way? On what basis did you answer?
 - b. Note: we default to thinking about our own works. The gospel invitation is for us to receive God's approval, not because of our works, but because of Christ.

Read Romans 2:12-16

2. In what way will God's judgment be fair to all? Can anyone claim ignorance?

Read Romans 2:17-24

3. How are you tempted to trust in and rely on your own good works as the basis for why God should accept and approve of you?
4. According to these verses, why is that way of thinking flawed?

Read Romans 2:25-29

5. What value do religious rituals have? (circumcision, or, baptism and the Lord's Supper)
6. What makes someone a "true Jew"? (i.e. one who is truly accepted by God)
7. What does this passage teach us about the motives of our hearts?
8. How does this passage point us to Jesus?
9. What have you been trusting in and relying on for God's acceptance and approval of you, that you need to repent of?

KINGDOM IMPACT - MULTIPLY

1. **Pray, Think, and Act.** Share any developments and updates in the areas below:
 - a. **Reach** - That God would use you to lead 1 person to faith in Christ;
 - b. **Belong** - to multiply opportunities for others to be brought into community
 - c. **Serve** - to begin serving, invite others into serving, or multiplying serving efforts by meeting needs or blessing neighbors or ministry partners together as a group
 - d. **Gather** - to multiply the church (planting, revitalization, helping other churches)