



Sin Among the Jews

Romans 2

Something to Start Us Off

- **Natural law theory** refers to the idea that there is an external moral order that God has brought into existence. That moral order is an extension of God's reason and God's will, which he has knit into the fabric of the universe because of his eternal law. But it also refers to the fact that human beings, in principle, ... can have access to some principles of the moral law, even in spite of our sin. (<https://www.crossway.org/articles/what-is-natural-law-and-how-should-it-be-used/>)

Something to Notice

Let's read Romans 2 slowly and mark a few phrases that tell us something important. Here are some that might stand out to us.

- 2:2, 3, 5, 16 All of these verses mention God's judgment
- 2:4 *God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance*
- 2:9, 10 *the Jew first and also the Greek* (See also 1:16.)
- 2:13 *For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law*
- 2:29 *circumcision is a matter of the heart* (See also Deuteronomy 30:6)

Something to Learn

Key Insights:

* Emperor Claudius expelled the Jews from Rome in ~AD 49. When he died in ~AD 54 the Jews began to come back. Paul wrote Romans in ~AD 57. The Jewish Christians returned to a now largely Gentile church. This topic pertaining to Jewish-Gentile relations in the church was very practical.

Discussion Questions:

- Today the Jew-Gentile division in the church is not so significant. What might be a comparable division today in most churches? Would *churched v. unchurched* work?
- The first paragraph highlights God's judgment. Why do you think Paul sensed it was important to use that phrase repeatedly?
- How would you explain what Paul says in v.11 about God not showing partiality?
- What actions might cause unbelievers to "blaspheme God" as in v. 24?

Something to Take Home

- Memorize and/or meditate on Romans 2:13 this week. It is a good reminder that, even though we are saved "by grace through faith," works are essential to the Christian life.