

ROMANS

— THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING —

Religious or Real?
Romans 2:1-17 NIV



Romans 1 gives a clear, bleak, dark picture of the condition of Man without the grace of God clearly pictures the end-game of spiritual secularism whose highest value is radical self expression

the end of it all is inventing sin, morally disgusting behavior, hating God, bitterness and a dark heart

Paul then turns our attention away from the depraved secular person to the religious moralist look inside- because the heart of the religious church-goer isn't any different!



Romans 2:1-4 NIV

2 You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. **2** Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. **3** So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? **4** Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?



- **We are natural self-justifiers.**
 - **We want to convince ourselves we are OK.**
 - **We want to convince God we're OK.**
 - **Then we can convince everyone else.**
- **Paul is making the case for God's grace and the Gospel.**
- **Religious moralists don't think they need it.**



- **What is a religious moralist?**
 - **Believe they can work their way to God**
 - **Blind to their own bondage**
 - **Rest eludes them**
 - **Merciless**
 - **Selfish**
 - **Serve only from obligation and reward**



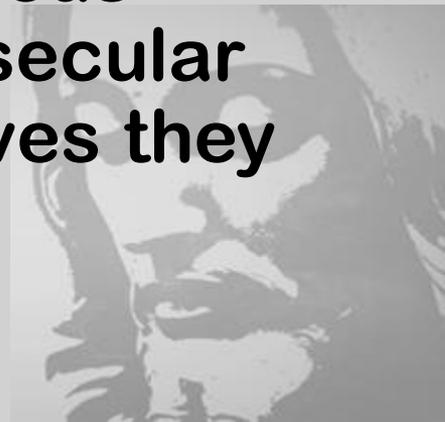
- **Secularists don't need God in order to be good; religious moralists use goodies to try and get to God.**
- **Secularists self justify in freedom and anything goes; moralists self justify in goodness and only my things go.**
- **Both disobedience and obedience are attempts at being my own savior!**
- **“Secularists don't repent; religious moralists repent of sin; Christians repent of sin and self-righteousness.”**



Romans 2:5-11 NIV

⁵ But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ God "will repay each person according to what they have done."^[a] ⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. ⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. ⁹ There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; ¹⁰ but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. ¹¹ For God does not show favoritism.

- **What does self-justification look like for a moralist?**
 - **Family righteous**
 - **Sunday one-day righteous**
 - **Pharisaical righteous**
 - **I meant to righteous**
 - **Head righteous**
 - **Tolerant righteous**
 - **Intolerant righteous**
- **The NT makes the point that the religious moralist is in a worse place than the secular sinner bc they've convinced themselves they are closet to God!**

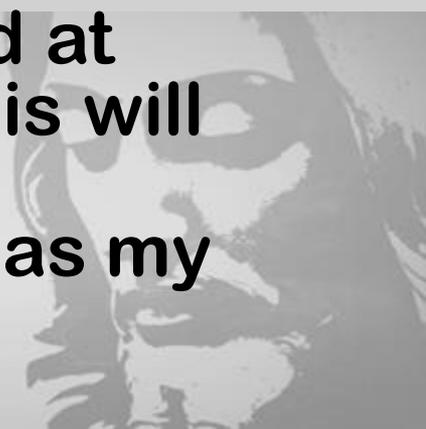


- Paul says they are just as much without excuse
- They break the laws they claim to keep
- They judge others
- They prefer their goodness over God's grace
- They compare themselves to others instead of God's holiness
- No matter how you got here, ITS AMAZING GRACE, whether its preserving or restoring.



Romans 2:12-16 NIV

¹² All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³ For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. ¹⁴ (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) ¹⁶ This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.



- Is Paul saying you have to earn and keep your salvation?
- The NT knows nothing of a verbal confession without being followed by baptism and a changed life.
- Salvation occurs with calling on Christ, and real salvation is always followed by change.
- For many moralists, religion is a coat of paint over a rotting heart.
 - Religion changes some behavior but it cannot change hearts.



Romans 2:17 NIV

¹⁷ Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and boast in God;



- **Religious moralist- you cannot get to God by being good.**
 - **Your moralism is really a judgment on your own guilt.**
 - **You're making weights for anyone that listens to you.**
 - **You should be thinking, "Why isn't God judging me?"**
 - **Jesus is our only hope!**
- **In the middle of our darkness and our twisted views of religion, Jesus is here to save us!**



