

Romans 2 “Breaking the Law”
September 13, 2026
Romans 2:11-24

Romans 2:11-24

11 For there is no favoritism with God.

12 For all who sin without the law will also perish without the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. 13 For the hearers of the law are not righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be justified. 14 So, when Gentiles, who do not by nature have the law, do what the law demands, they are a law to themselves even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts. Their consciences confirm this. Their competing thoughts either accuse or even excuse them 16 on the day when God judges what people have kept secret, according to my gospel through Christ Jesus.

17 Now if you call yourself a Jew, and rely on the law, and boast in God, 18 and know his will, and approve the things that are superior, being instructed from the law, 19 and if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light to those in darkness, 20 an instructor of the ignorant, a teacher of the immature, having the embodiment of knowledge and truth in the law— 21 you then, who teach another, don't you teach yourself? You who preach, “You must not steal”—do you steal? 22 You who say, “You must not commit adultery”—do you commit adultery? You who detest idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?

24 For, as it is written: The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.

Real faith produces really living.

James 1:22-25

22 But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was. 25 But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works—this person will be blessed in what he does.

“What does this mean?”

“What can I obey?”

The Law.

Psalms 19:7-8

7 The instruction of the Lord is perfect, renewing one's life; the testimony of the Lord is trustworthy, making the inexperienced wise. 8 The precepts of the Lord are right, making the heart glad; the command of the Lord is radiant, making the eyes light up.

Romans 2:14-15

14 So, when Gentiles, who do not by nature have the law, do what the law demands, they are a law to themselves even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts.

The law is on their hearts.

C.S. Lewis - "My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?"

Romans 2:15-16

15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts. Their consciences confirm this. Their competing thoughts either accuse or even excuse them 16 on the day when God judges what people have kept secret, according to my gospel through Christ Jesus.

Gentiles unto themselves, forming their own laws, still fail the very laws they create.

Romans 2:17-24

17 Now if you call yourself a Jew, and rely on the law, and boast in God, 18 and know his will, and approve the things that are superior, being instructed from the law, 19 and if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light to those in darkness, 20 an instructor of the ignorant, a teacher of the immature, having the embodiment of knowledge and truth in the law— 21 you then, who teach another, don't you teach yourself? You who preach, "You must not steal"—do you steal? 22 You who say, "You must not commit adultery"—do you commit adultery? You who detest idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? 24 For, as it is written: The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.

The charge is that the truth that you know is a truth that you don't live up to.

Psalms 25:11

11 Lord, for the sake of your name, forgive my iniquity, for it is immense.

The greater the guilt the more glorious the pardon.

Life Group Discussion Questions

- 1.) What did God say to you through His Scripture during our Sunday gathering?
- 2.) You could know that something was right or wrong if no one told you? Is there an objective morality?
- 3.) What is the conscience? Is it God-given? Can feeling guilty for doing something wrong actually be a good experience?

- 4.) Romans 2:11-24 is an indictment against both Jews and Greeks. What is Paul's indictment against the Gentiles (v.12-16)? What is he charging the Jews with (v.18-24)?
- 5.) Read Psalm 25:11. What does it mean for God to forgive for the sake of His name?
- 6.) How would you summarize Romans Chapter 1 and 2 so far?
- 7.) Why do you think Paul is spending so much time on sin?