THE PURPOSE OF GOD’S LAW

Romans 2:1–3:20

Key Verse: 3:20

1. What kind of people has Paul just described? (1:28–32) Whom does he seem to be addressing now? (2:1,17ff.) What does it mean to “pass judgment”? (2:1,3) How could Paul say that we all “do the same things”? What is the difference between human judgment and God’s? (2) What happens to those who judge? (1b,3; Mt7:1–2)

2. How do self-righteous people misunderstand their not being judged? (4) Why is God so rich in his kindness, forbearance and patience? What will stubborn, unrepentant people one day discover? (5) Why is it important to also know this other side of God?

3. How is God’s righteous judgment described? (6) Why will he look not at what we wanted to do, but at what we actually did? What two life pursuits and outcomes does Paul mention? (7–8) Why is what we are seeking so important to God? How does he reveal his fairness in his judgment? (9–11) Why did the Jews need to hear this?

4. What two kinds of people are mentioned, and how are their outcomes similar? (12) What mistaken idea do those who know the Bible tend to have? (13) How are those who don’t know it sometimes better? (14) Even though God has given us all a conscience, why can’t we always live up to even that? (15) Of what was Paul certain? (16; 1Co4:5)

5. How do the Jews (and those who know the Bible) tend to think of themselves, and why? (17–20) Why do they preach to others but not themselves? (21–23) Why is being hypocritical so serious? (24) How did Paul demolish the Jews’ confidence in being circumcised? (25–27) What is circumcision of the heart, and why is it important? (28–29)

6. Why does Paul suddenly mention the advantage in being a Jew? (3:1–2) Why did some Jews’ unfaithfulness not tarnish God’s? (3–4) How were some misinterpreting this? (5–8)

7. What was Paul’s conclusion? (9) How does Scripture describe all humanity? (10–12) Why the focus on throats, tongues, lips and mouths? (13–14) What else does Scripture say about people? (15–17) What is the underlying problem? (18) Instead of making us self-righteous, what effect should God’s law have on us? (19–20)