SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Romans

Chapter 2

No Partiality with God

MEMORY VERSE · ROMANS 2:4

"Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?"

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Romans 2

In chapter 2 Paul turns from “them” to “you” — the man who knows right from wrong and judges others for it. This week God is asking you to stop measuring yourself against other men and let His kindness lead you home. The Judge who sees every secret is Jesus, and He came first with kindness.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study, the slides and the film for this chapter are on the Romans study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

The Judge in the Mirror

READ · ROMANS 2:1–5

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What does verse 1 say happens when you judge another person? List the three things in verse 4 that Paul calls “riches.”

REFLECT

Paul says, “you who judge practice the same things” (v. 1). What fault do you notice fastest in other men, and where does a version of it show up in you?

REFLECT

Verse 4 says God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance. What kindness has God shown you lately that you may have taken as permission instead?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one sin you have kept because “nothing bad has happened yet.” Bring it to God today in plain words, and thank Him that His patience gave you time to turn.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 2:4)

DAY 2 OF 5

No Favorites with God

READ · ROMANS 2:6–11

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What two kinds of people does Paul describe in verses 7–8, and what does each receive? What does verse 11 say about God?

REFLECT

“There is no partiality with God” (v. 11). What have you counted on — family, church, past service, a clean stretch — to make you look better before God?

REFLECT

Verse 8 describes people who “are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth.” Where does selfish ambition pull at you right now?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank God that because He shows no favorites, the cross is open to every man — the one in the cell and the one in the pulpit. Pray for one man you have been tempted to look down on.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 2:4)

DAY 3 OF 5

Conscience and Secrets

READ · ROMANS 2:12–16

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

According to verse 13, who will be justified — hearers or doers? What does verse 15 say the conscience does?

REFLECT

Verse 15 says your thoughts are "alternately accusing or else defending" you. What has your conscience been saying to you this week, and how have you answered it?

REFLECT

Verse 16 says God "will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus." How does it change things to know the Judge of your secrets is the same Jesus who died for them?

RESPOND — TODAY

Do one hidden right thing today that no one will see or thank you for. Offer it to God as worship.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 2:4)

DAY 4 OF 5

Teach Yourself First

READ · ROMANS 2:17–24

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

List the roles in verses 19–20 that the religious man claims for himself. What questions does Paul ask him in verses 21–23?

REFLECT

“You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?” (v. 21). Where is the gap widest between what you tell others and how you live?

REFLECT

Verse 24 says God’s name can be dishonored “because of you.” Who is watching your life, and what are they learning about God from it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pick the one area where your words and your walk don’t match. Ask Christ for help there, and tell one trusted brother about it this week.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 2:4)

DAY 5 OF 5

A Heart Only God Can Change

READ · ROMANS 2:25–29

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

According to verses 28–29, what makes someone a true Jew? Who does the circumcising of the heart, and where does that man's praise come from (v. 29)?

REFLECT

Circumcision was an outward sign. What outward signs of faith — baptism, attendance, a Bible on the shelf — are you tempted to lean on instead of a changed heart?

REFLECT

Paul says the heart is changed "by the Spirit, not by the letter" (v. 29). Where have you tried to change yourself by rules alone, and what happened?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray Deuteronomy 30:6 over yourself: ask the Lord to do the heart surgery you cannot do, and thank Him that His praise counts more than any man's.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (ROMANS 2:4)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

Paul says we can “think lightly” of God’s kindness (v. 4). What does it look like, in everyday life, for a man to take God’s patience seriously instead of lightly?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Verse 7 speaks of “perseverance in doing good.” What has helped you keep going when doing right felt slow or unnoticed, and how can this group help each other persevere?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

Verse 29 says the true believer’s “praise is not from men, but from God.” Whose approval do you chase most, and how would living for God’s praise free you this week?

MY PRAYER

Lord, thank You for the riches of Your kindness that keep leading me back; today I turn from…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · ROMANS 2:4

"Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?"