

What Do You Think?  
Romans 2:1-5

## What Do You Think?

**Pastor-teacher.** That is my function in Spring Valley Bible Church. Herman Mattox ordained me. Mostly my focus is on teaching. Researching the Hebrew and Greek of the Bible is a joy. This message from joy needs to be crafted so that the audience will understand it and be able to use it to grow in grace. It requires studying, preparing and then teaching. The teaching part of pastor-teacher.

Pastoring is also part of the pastor-teacher's duties. Pastors are to protect the flock. They are to inform, warn and guide. R. B. Thieme Jr., Herman Mattox, Robby Dean and others identified issues in society that the ordinary parishioner should take note of and be warned of.

There are some obvious issues today. Take for instance hallucinogenic drugs. They are an attack on free will. They can lead an unbeliever into demon possession. Believers can become influenced by the Cosmos Diabolicus. Antisemitism is something that is considered to be a stain on history most notably in WWII. The Bible warns of this type of hatred.

Recently, I mentioned the movement that is sometimes called the "New Apostolic Reformation" (NAR). The reason for bringing it up now is that people from this movement have taken key positions in the Trump organization. As a result, you will hear more and more about them. Rather than wait for one of you to ask about this movement, I will, from time to time, provide information that I acquire. This organization has combined a religious activism with a social and political militancy. My understanding is that they are pursuing the "Seven Mountain Mandate." According to an excerpt from the link below, "The Seven Mountain Mandate is a manifesto for conquering all aspects of American life."<sup>1</sup> There are seven areas of society that this movement attempts to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://theoutline.com/post/8856/seven-mountain-mandate-trump-paula-white>

**What Do You Think?**  
**Romans 2:1-5**

influence: education, religion, family, business, government, entertainment, and media<sup>2</sup>. So it is necessary to bring it up here from time to time. I have not completed a “forensic” analysis, but today I will read an excerpt from a journalist article on the “NAR.” It was written in 2020 prior to the election in November 2020. It is pertinent now since the same forces are at work in the political arena.

<https://theoutline.com/post/8856/seven-mountain-mandate-trump-paula-white>

The author of this article posted her bio at:

<http://www.ellehardy.com/about/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paula\\_White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paula_White) (Paula White was at one time and may still be Trump’s “spiritual advisor.”)

As a reminder, below are repeated quotes from Robby Dean and Andy Woods:

Robby Dean:

“You have a heretical movement today that is called the New Apostolic Reformation. And it is very very sad because you find a lot of the people that are associated with that to be extremely focused on politics. Yet we are not having an apostolic reformation. As we’ll see this morning there has been no apostle since the death of the apostle John in approximately 95, 96 AD. And yet, many of these individuals are out there. And they are often linked with dominion theology and post-millennial theology and theonomy which emphasizes bringing back the Mosaic Law for today. And there are a lot of problems with all those things. The New Apostolic Reformation isn’t restricted to a denomination or a particular group. It’s just sort of a fluid group. There actually is an outstanding book that has been written about this on the New Apostolic Reformation, written by a couple of graduates from Talbot Seminary and Biola. And

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<sup>2</sup> <https://theoutline.com/post/8856/seven-mountain-mandate-trump-paula-white>

## What Do You Think? Romans 2:1-5

its outstanding. And it indicates what a lot of the problems are. And one of the problems that I had during the previous presidential administration was a large number of those, not everyone, but a large number of those who were a part of the so called Christian Council or Evangelical Council that surrounded President Trump all bought into the New Apostolic Reformation. Now not everyone did but a number of them did. And as I always say, we have to remember that a right thing done in a wrong way or for a wrong reason is wrong. Only a right thing done for the right reason and the right way is right. And this was extremely troublesome to me when I understood just how theologically flaky and heretical some of those people were that surrounded the president. Now not all of them. Franklin Graham and Robert Jeffers up at First Baptist in Dallas and several others were fairly solid. But a large number were very fringe, at best. OK. So we have to understand some of these particular issues.<sup>3</sup>”

What is dominion theology? From Wikipedia, “Dominion theology, also known as dominionism, is a group of Christian political ideologies that seek to institute a nation governed by Christians and based on their understandings of biblical law. Extents of rule and ways of acquiring governing authority are varied.<sup>4</sup>”

What is Christian nationalism? From Christianity Today, “Christian nationalism is the belief that the American nation is defined by Christianity, and that the government should take active steps to keep it that way. Popularly, Christian nationalists assert that America is and must remain a “Christian nation”—not merely as an observation about American history, but as a prescriptive program for what America must continue to be in the future.<sup>5</sup>”

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3 <https://www.deanbible.org/bible-class-listing/message/139-the-apostles-and-prophets-b> (transcribed from the audio)

4 [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion\\_theology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion_theology)

5 <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2021/february-web-only/what-is-christian-nationalism.html>

**What Do You Think?**  
**Romans 2:1-5**

Andy Woods:

“The definition of “apostle” has become very important in our day, because we now have the New Apostolic Reformation. You’ve heard of this, right? The NAR. It is centered there in Bethel Church in Redding, California. Their whole movement is centered around the fact that today we have modern-day apostles.”

“If you have modern-day apostles, then the canon of Scripture can’t be closed. Because it’s the Lord Who gave the apostles the authority to pen His Word. So the moment you open the door to modern-day apostles, you are also opening the door to what we would call an open canon of Scripture.<sup>6</sup>”

**Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinks within himself,  
so he is. He says to you, “Eat and drink!” But  
his heart is not with you.**

There is a thread of the Fabric of Scripture running through Romans 2:1-5. It has to do with thinking. We know that the real person is in the thinking. The Bible tells us that in Proverbs 23:7. We know that from everyday living. We act in life because of what we think. Sometimes a person everyone says is a nice person, “wouldn’t hurt a fly” goes on a rampage. Some mental attitude sin has built up and festered inside of that person and eventually bursts out into terrible acts fueled by pent up anger, jealousy or other mental attitude sins. So there are words for thinking embedded in Romans 2:1-5 that we need to take note of.

When we get to Romans chapter 7, we will see that it was the mental attitude sin of covetousness that caused Paul to reevaluate his life vis-a-vis the Law. A sin of thinking. A mental attitude sin.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://slbc.org/sermon/2-peter-003-grow-up/>

What Do You Think?  
Romans 2:1-5

**Romans 2:1 Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.**

**Condemn.** This is an action of the mind. Judging is also a brain function. There are situations in which we are required to evaluate and or judge a person. The judgment here is related to taking God's place as judge.

**Romans 2:2 And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.**

**Know.** From Robby Dean, "Paul uses the Greek word OIDA. GINOSKO is another word in the Greek for knowledge; it has the idea of coming to learn something, going through the process of studying growth and learning, whereas OIDA has to do with seeing something intuitively. It is used in the Gospel of John to refer to the omniscience of God but it is also used of recognizing a self-evident conclusion."<sup>7</sup>

**Romans 2:3 But do you suppose (conclude) this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God?**

**You suppose.** Greek word for to reckon, count, charge with; reason, decide, conclude; think, suppose. This is another word for thinking. The Greek is *logizomai*. This can mean to render to one's account (imputation) and to conclude. In modern Greek, the noun from this verb can refer to the "bill" at a restaurant: the conclusion of the expense.

<sup>7</sup> <https://deanbible.org/new-testament-menuitem/romans-menuitem/message/2010-romans-023b/read>

**What Do You Think?  
Romans 2:1-5**

So in verse 3, the moral crowd concludes that they can judge in place of God and escape the judgment of God.

**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?**

**Not knowing.** Paul uses a participle of GNOSKO. A word for thinking.

**Think lightly.** The Greek word is *kataphroneo*. This is composed of two parts: *kata* (down) + *phroneo* (think). It comes to mean despise. But look at how Paul used this word applied to Timothy.

**2 Timothy 4:12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.**

Despising is a type of thinking. A Greek word for thinking is part of the word found in these verses.

**Repentance.** This is another word for thinking. It is composed of *meta* + *noeo* (another word for thinking). Literally it is a change in thinking.

I suppose that Paul wanted to use two different words for thinking to emphasize the difference between human viewpoint (in this case despise or look down on) and human viewpoint responding to God (in this case, a change of mind).

Herman took a large portion of a lesson to emphasize that God's kindness leads us to a change of mind. But this repentance does not necessarily lead to faith. Herman quoted the Theological Dictionary of the New Testament when he said, "Repentance summons to faith."

**What Do You Think?**  
**Romans 2:1-5**

Despise → God's Kindness → Repentance (Change of Mind) → ? → Faith

Let me recount a true story that I personally observed. While in college at Florida State University, I met a man who at one point rejected God and Jesus Christ. He was challenged by someone to prove something about the Bible as being wrong. He took the book of Daniel. He became an expert on the book of Daniel. He eventually realized that the book of Daniel was authentic. He had to make a decision at that point. He was into drugs, especially Marijuana. He didn't want to give us his life style and his drugs. That was obviously not in line with what the Bible says. He had changed his mind about the gospel but didn't commit to it by faith for some time. He had repented, he had changed his thinking. When quizzed later, after he had accepted Jesus Christ as his savior, he said that was the most difficult time in his life. He felt he was already in Hell. He knew the gospel was true. Yet he didn't want to accept it, yet, he knew that the rejection of the gospel would lead to actual Hell. The point is that he had changed his mind (*metanoeo*) but had not yet believed (*pisteuo*). As Herman explained, a change of mind doesn't mean faith. But at that point, the choices are very clear. One way leads to the wrath of God and terrible judgment. The other accepts the kindness of God through faith and tremendous blessings. And yes, the man eventually believed in Jesus Christ as savior. But he had to run into a "brick wall" in life before he made that decision. I heard someone say they think he became a professor at a seminary somewhere. Angels learned something from his conversion. I observed his situation. So obviously, I learned something of God's grace and kindness by watching his situation. Our lives, each one of them, are open books to the angelic beings. They learn about God's character in action through our lives. We are evidence in the appeal trial of Satan.

Repentance can be short lived, transitory. Another story from my college days. There was a student of philosophy who became a believer. He had

**What Do You Think?**  
**Romans 2:1-5**

changed his thinking about the gospel and believed in Jesus Christ as savior. After a while, this philosophy major returned to an InterVarsity Christian Fellowship meeting to declare he no longer believed in God. He had changed his thinking again. I don't know if anyone told him that even though he now rejected Jesus Christ, he had a change of thinking, he was still going to heaven. It just meant he was about to embark on a rocky road because God was going to provide incentives to return to faith.

In verse 4, the moral crowd is condemned because they have despised the kindness of God. They have "looked down" on God's character.

**Romans 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,**

In verse 5, the actual conclusion of the logic is that instead of escape, there is yet God's judgment waiting for them.

There is something about how the Bible writers present Bible truths that I want you to take note of. That is, sometimes a writer of Scripture will present the solution to a problem in the negative. It is like saying, you are in trouble because you didn't budget your money. The answer to the situation was to budget the finances. We have been here before in the book of Zephaniah:

**Zephaniah 3:1 Woe to her who is rebellious and defiled, The tyrannical city!**



**What Do You Think?  
Romans 2:1-5**

**Zephaniah 3:2 She heeded no voice, She accepted no instruction. She did not trust in the Lord, She did not draw near to her God.**

In Zephaniah 3:1 Jerusalem is called rebellious, defiled and tyrannical. The people in a nation in crisis may wake up one day and ask, “How did we get here?” The citizens of the Ukraine may ask that question. For Jerusalem, Zephaniah provides the answer:

1. They did not draw near to her God. As in the book of Judges, she abandoned her God. Today they refuse to recognize Jesus Christ as the Messiah.
2. There was no faith in the Lord. No salvation phase 1 and no salvation phase 2.
3. They did not accept Bible instruction. If they had believed and been saved, they didn't go to Bible class and learn Bible information (some call this Bible doctrine). It is information on how to live life as a believer.
4. They did not heed Bible instruction. And if they had believed and been saved and gone to Bible class, did they act upon the information they were given? In some cases the Bible says to wait. That is a form of faith, waiting on God to act. In other cases, it is to move. I love God's instructions to Moses in Exodus chapter 14:

**Exodus 14:15 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to Me? Tell the sons of Israel to go forward.**

What are you waiting for Moses! Move! In our Christian lives, we have to know when to wait and when to move. Or in the words of a song, when to hold and when to fold.

## What Do You Think? Romans 2:1-5

All of the instructions in Zephaniah 3:2 are in the negative. Turn them into positives for the solution. I find the logic intriguing. You are suffering because you didn't do these things... Yet, in the positive, those are the very things that are the solution.

So in Romans chapter 2 God, through the apostle Paul, is explaining to the moral judging crowd what they should have been doing but instead have despised God's kindness.

Let me drop back a little and look at these verses from a broad perspective, looking in particular at the words and how they interrelate. It is like a symphonic orchestra.

Instrumental Sections of an orchestra. I think I was taught this in elementary school. Do they teach this kind of information in elementary school still?

**String instruments**, such as the violin, viola, cello, and double bass

**Woodwinds**, such as the flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, and occasional saxophone

**Brass instruments**, such as the horn, trumpet, trombone, cornet, euphonium, and tuba

**Percussion instruments**, such as the timpani, snare drum, bass drum, cymbals, triangle, tambourine, tam-tam and mallet percussion instruments

**Other instruments** such as the piano, harpsichord, and other keyboards.<sup>8</sup>

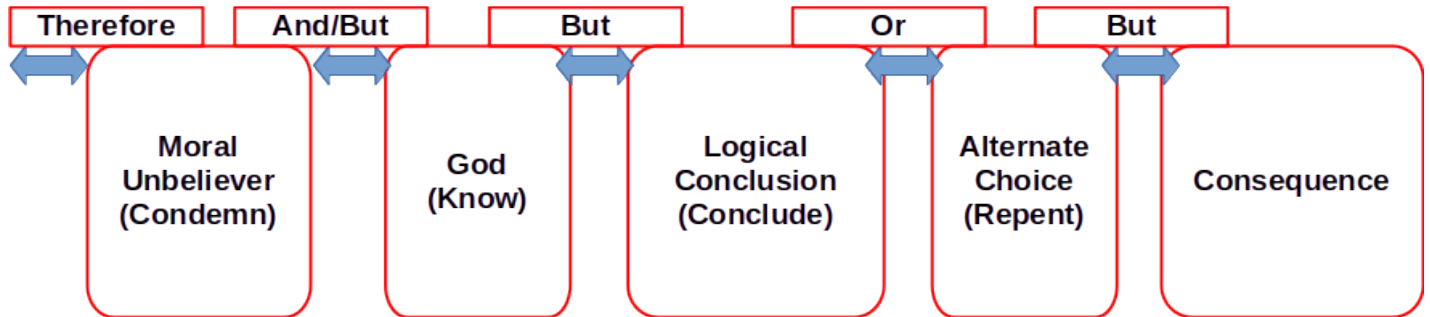
The composer, like the author of Romans, can take the various instruments and weave them into an impactful composition.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orchestra>

## What Do You Think? Romans 2:1-5

In addition to the flow of the verbs for thinking which is covered above, there is the flow of conjunctions. Linking these together is like seeing bed sheets on a clothes line. I wonder if young children have ever seen a clothes line or even know what it is.



V1: Therefore contrasts Pagan versus Moral Unbeliever

V2: And/But introduces God's perspective

V3: Logical Conclusion: God's Judgment

V4: Alternative to God's Judgment: Kindness, Forbearance, Patience

V5: Ultimate Consequence of Judgment

It is like a symphony. The conjunctions and verbs and nouns all work together to provide a meaningful message.