

LESSON 2
WHATEVER BECAME OF SIN?
ROMANS 1:18—2:16



1 What are some activities that are widely accepted in our society now but were widely condemned just a few years ago?

2 How have your own standards changed over the years?



Read Romans 1:18—2:16 and the following notes:

- ☐ 1:18 ☐ 1:21–32 ☐ 1:24–32 ☐ 1:25 ☐ 1:32 ☐ 2:1ff ☐ 2:4 ☐ 2:5–11
☐ 2:12–15

3 What does Paul's argument tell us about God?

4 What does it tell us about sin?

5 What do we learn about human beings?

6 How would people in your congregation react if your pastor were to deliver such a confrontational message?

7 What does Paul mean when he says that God “abandoned them” to their wickedness?



8 Why does God hate sin so much? Why did Paul feel compelled to speak out so strongly on this issue to this audience?

God hates sin, and he wants us to hate it, too. Yet we live in a world where all types of immoral behavior are excused, explained away, or even defended on the basis of freedom and personal rights. Compromise is seen in every corner of our society and is praised as a virtue. But what about God's expectations? Surely the Creator's will is more important than the creature's desires. We must be willing to see our actions for what they are—sin—and we need to see clearly the consequences our sin may bring upon us and others. We will be held ac-

countable for our actions. We must take bold action to remove sin's influence from our life and to stand for what is right and true whenever we encounter compromise.

9 What are some examples of compromise within our churches?



10 Why are some Christians afraid to call certain actions sin?

11 In what areas of your life have you compromised too far in your standards or behavior?

12 How have God's standards been compromised in your church? in society? What can you do about this?

13 How can we take a stand against sin without being vengeful or judgmental?

14 Choose an area of your life where you need to raise your standards. Ask yourself what is wrong with your current lifestyle or way of thinking. Write down what you think your actions should be. Ask God to give you the strength to make the necessary changes.

15 Identify at least one person to whom you are willing to be accountable, and tell him or her the changes you think are required in your life. Ask him or her to pray for you and to help you evaluate your progress.

A Who is the most godly person you know? How does he or she measure up to God's standards of perfection?

B Against what sin God is showing his anger? What choices are open to human beings? What choice do they make?

C What is your reaction to Paul's claim that creation itself tells about God and that people have "no excuse"?

D Why does Paul emphasize sexual immorality as an example of sin and its control over human beings? What's so serious about sexual sin?

E Why is idolatry still a problem for human beings? for Christians?

F How do you reconcile the concept of a loving God with the idea that some people are abandoned to the consequences of their sin and will face eternal punishment? What can you do to save people from this terrible fate?

G How would you answer the question "What happens to those people who never hear about Christ? Surely God wouldn't condemn them, would he?"



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