



Insufficient

Romans 2

Rome

Apostle Paul, c. 1657
by Rembrandt

Justified by Faith

Romans 3:28

El Capitan

William Henry Jackson's 1899 photograph



I coined this corny croon on the Coronavirus

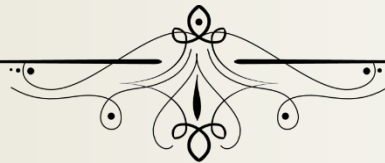
Picky panicked people

Poorly picking

**Propounding preposterously
pitiful propositions**

Panic peaceful people planning

Prudent practical preparations



Romans 3:28

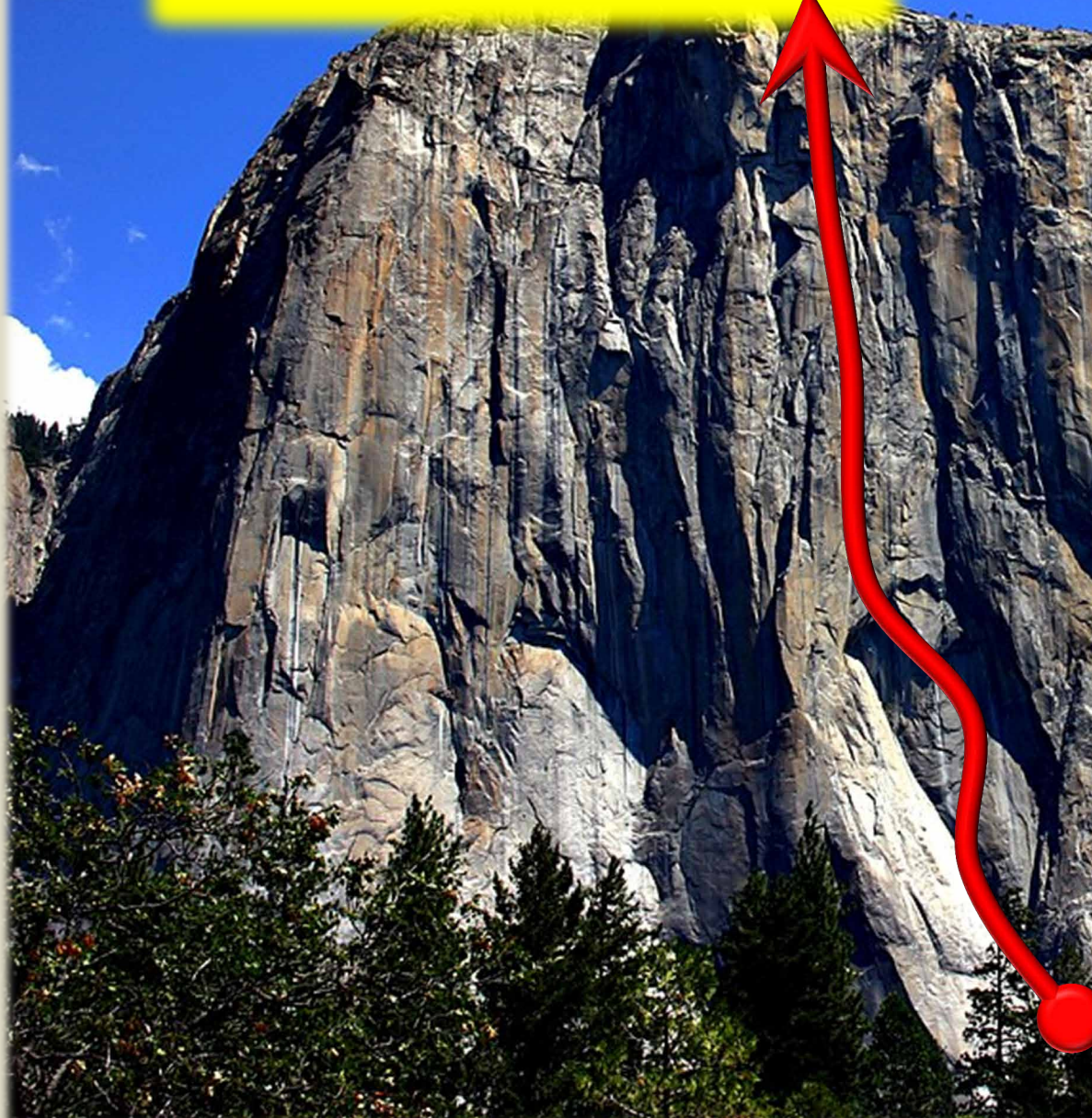
El Capitan

if Romans is El Capitan
of the New Testament

then

Summit of El Capitan
3,000 feet up ... is

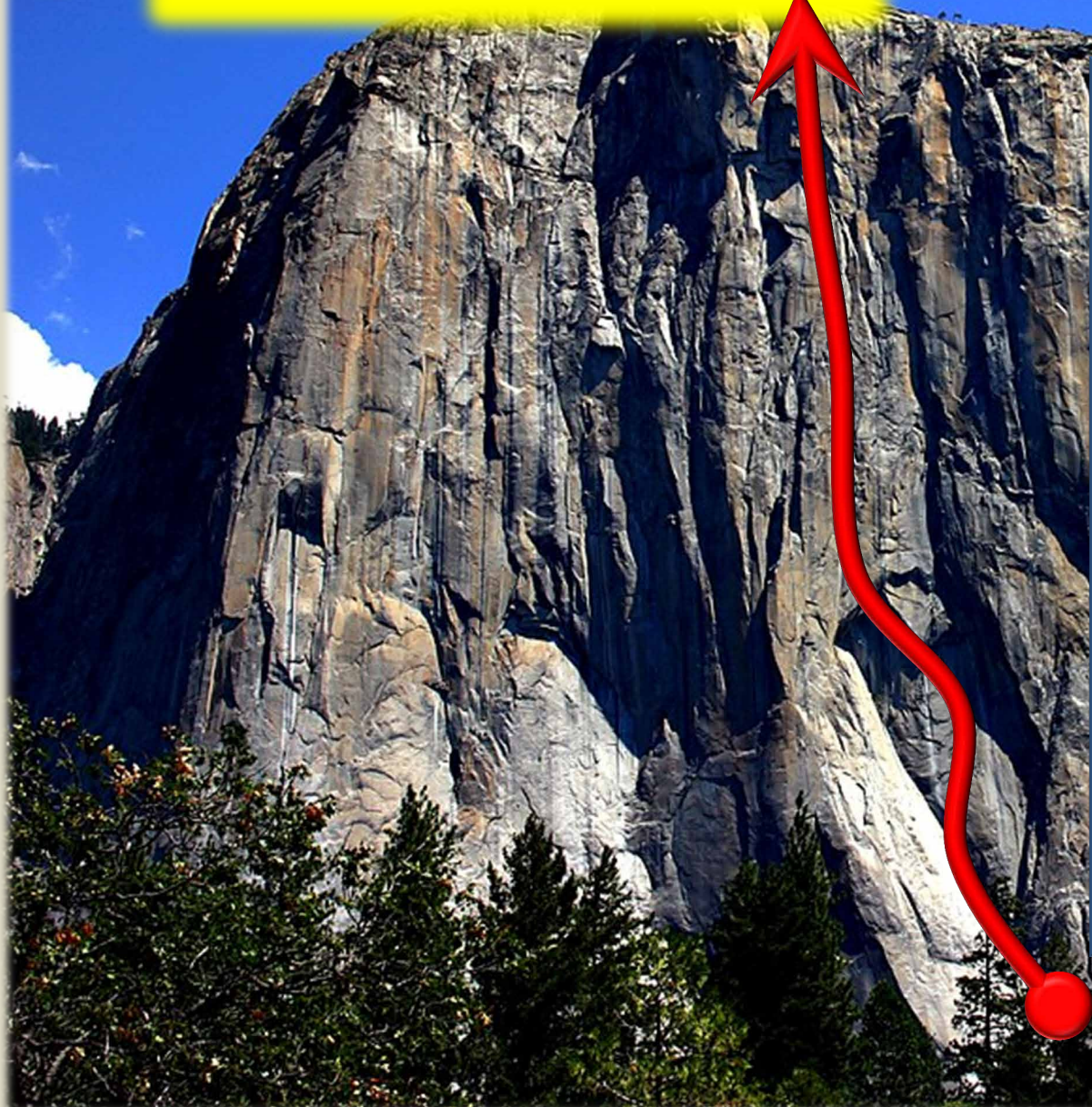
“Therefore we conclude
that a man is justified
by FAITH without the
deeds of the Law.”



Romans 3:28

El Capitan

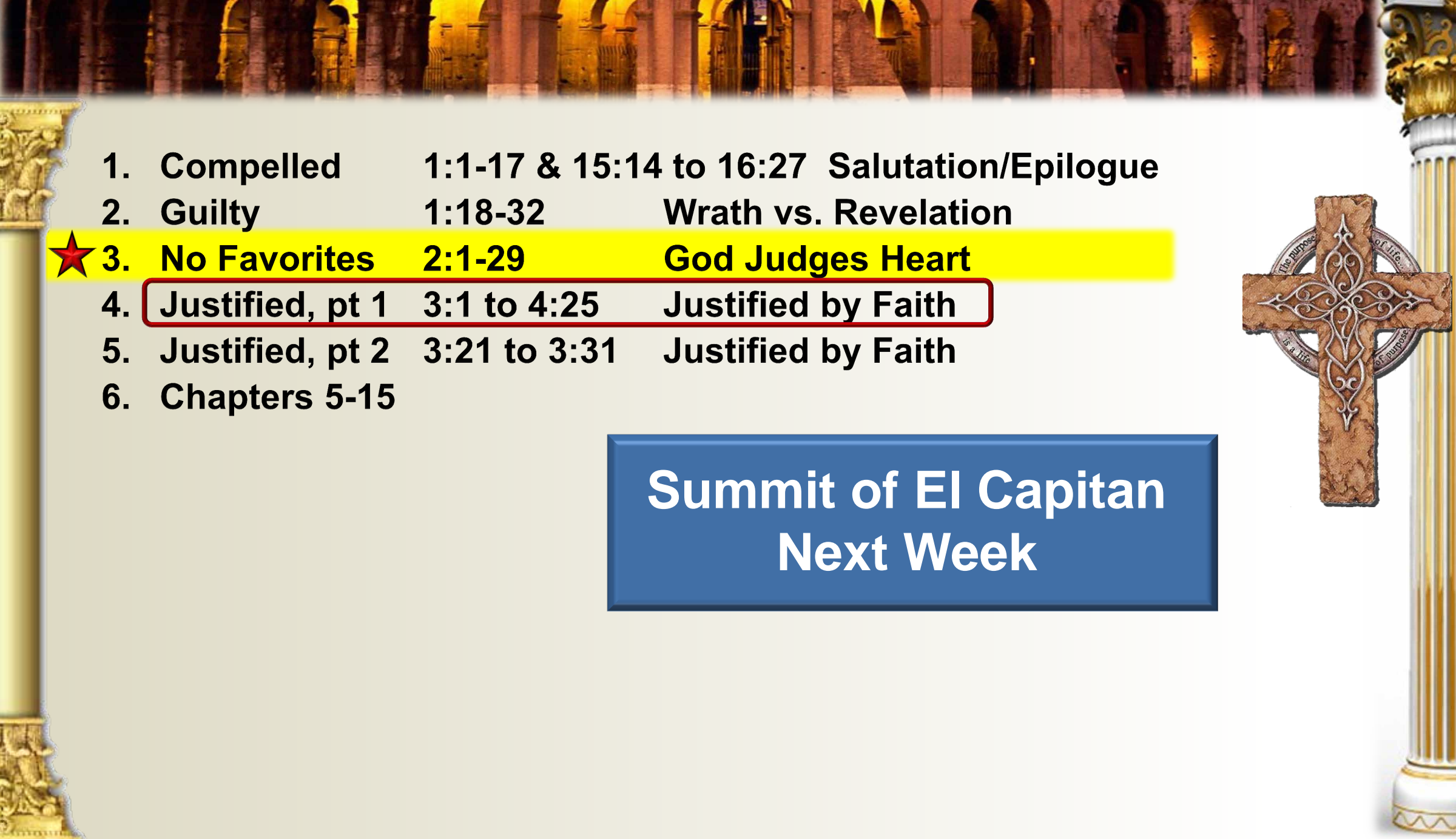



Yet ... one hard cleft left
in our climb ...
A cleft that **MUST** be
passed before the top
Circumcision
After chapter 2 ...
We'll be Clear of Cutting
Then we summit
El Capitan



Romans 3:28

El Capitan

- Same essence in Chap 2 as Galatians
- Only NICER to Romans
- Less Circumcision Later
- **More** on **Faith** to follow
- **After** El Capitan's Summit
- **MUCH More** on **Faith** in Exquisite Detail

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1. Compelled 1:1-17 & 15:14 to 16:27 Salutation/Epilogue
 2. Guilty 1:18-32 Wrath vs. Revelation
 - ★ 3. No Favorites 2:1-29 God Judges Heart
 4. Justified, pt 1 3:1 to 4:25 Justified by Faith
 5. Justified, pt 2 3:21 to 3:31 Justified by Faith
 6. Chapters 5-15

**Summit of El Capitan
Next Week**

Theme

**Since no one can keep the Law perfectly
everyone needs a Savior**

Romans 2:1-29

God's Righteous Judgment

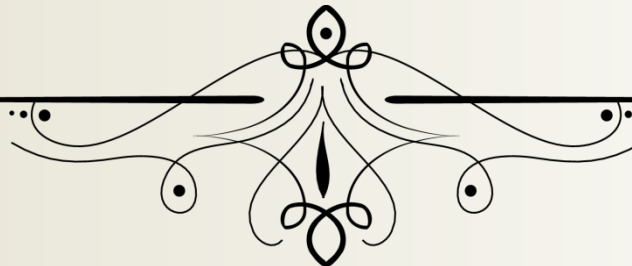
2:1-16 Doing Evil vs. Good – Wrath vs. Eternal Life

The Jews and the Law

2:17-24 Hypocrisy Revealed – Boasting/Breaking Law

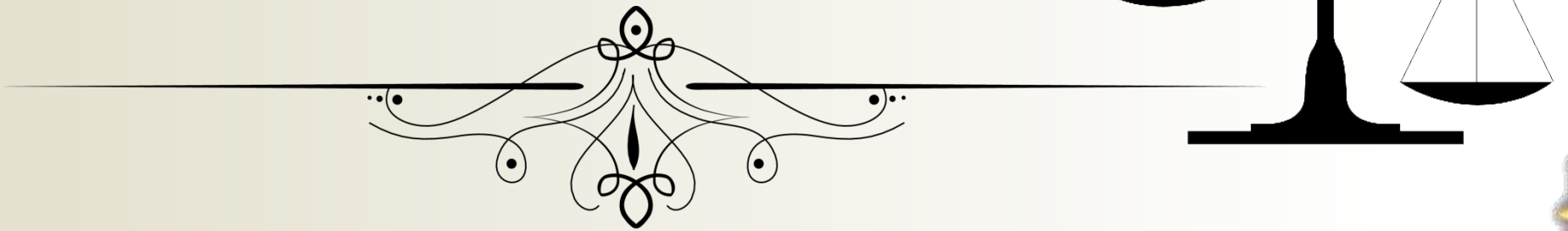
2:25-27 Obedience Required – Non-Circumcised Saints?

2:28-29 Heart Recognized – Circumcision of Heart



Key Verse – Romans 2:11

**For God does not show
favoritism.**



2:1-16 Doing Evil vs. Good
– Wrath vs. Eternal Life



**1 You, therefore, have no excuse,
you who pass judgment on someone else,
for at whatever point you judge another,
you are condemning yourself,
because you who pass judgment do the same things.**

**2-4 ... so when you ... pass judgment ... yet do the same things,
do you think you will escape God's judgment?**

5 ... you are storing up wrath against yourself....

2:1-16 Doing Evil vs. Good
– Wrath vs. Eternal Life

Quarterly has this highlighted ...

Just as the Gentiles worshiped creation instead of the Creator

The Jews worshiped the Law instead of the Lawgiver

Nice summary of Paul's comparison ...

Then, Paul takes us farther up El Capitan

No longer just *Idolatry* vs. *Bigotry* ...

... to ...

Who *HAVE* the Law with an *Evil Heart*

... versus ...

Who have *NOT* the Law, yet *DO GOOD*



6 God “will repay each person according to what they have done.”

7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, **he will give eternal life.**

8 But for those who are self-seeking ... wrath and anger.

9-10 ... first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;

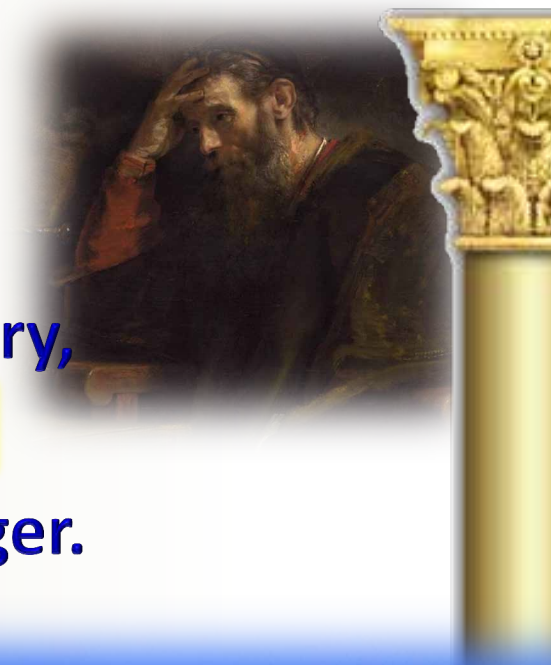
11 For God does not show favoritism.

Still climbing El Capitan ...

APPEAR to say those who “do good” can be saved ... **get eternal life ...**

IF, if, if you take them OUT of context

IF, if, if you isolate them ...



We are at one of the difficult parts of the climb
Not the hardest ... but ... say a camp site half way up
DIATRIBE ... never liked that word ...

Today it means a kind of **RANT** ... similar to **TIRADE**

- **RANT** is cathartic, a “blowing off of steam”
- **TIRADE** is a long critical speech

DIATRIBE can have bitterness

Greek word is transliterated *diatribe*

Ancient times in centuries B.C.

in Paul's time here in Romans A.D.

DIATRIBE = speaker argues with
a fictional opponent ...



To me ... the term **DIATRIBE** is just ugly-sounding
DIATRIBE = to me is pictured as **Baby Bib**
DIATRIBES = are *usually boring* in nature, tedious
DIATRIBE = are *not* very inspiring ... *not* stunning

Such is chapter 2, most of it a classical **DIATRIBE** = Baby Bib

I'm sure Paul lamented this himself ...

Yet Chap 2 is a necessary step UP, up, up

... to get to the top of El Capitan ...

We must see the natures of both the
Greeks and Jews



12-15 – Paul focuses on the HEART ...

14 Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the Law,
do by nature things required by the Law ...

15 They show that the requirements of the Law are written on
their HEARTS, their consciences also bearing witness....

FACT ... there is a Conscience, a Heart upon which God writes

FACT ... we often ignore our Hearts ... all too often ...

And the good Romans ... have to see something else ...

16 This will take place on the day when
God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ,
as my gospel declares.



Now then ... do NOT think Paul is playing
Do NOT think Paul was implying the Gentiles were
Keeping ALL the Law ... at any time

This is an educated **diatribe** ... logical ... boring ... tedious
See Paul gritting his teeth in the writing of it ... breath held
He is MUCH nicer to the Romans than the Galatians
Remember, to the Galatians ... Paul said those
Kingdom Cutters should not STOP and should ...

CUT ALL

Here, Paul reasons ... laboriously ... boringly ... tediously



2:17-24 Hypocrisy Revealed

– Boasting/Breaking Law

Diatribes really takes off ... splatter on the Baby Bib

17-18 Now you, *IF* you call yourself a Jew;

IF you rely on the Law and boast in God;

IF you know his will and approve of what is superior
because you are instructed by the Law;

19 *IF* you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind,
a light for those who are in the dark,

Feel the SUPERIORITY



This is pulling away the curtain ...

Paul continues ...

20 an instructor of the foolish,
a teacher of little children,
because you have in the Law
the embodiment of knowledge and truth—

**Feel the SUPERIORITY
of the Super Jew**



To deal with this boring **diatribe** ...

this tedious taunting third-person **RANT**

Part of the problem is **OUR fault** ...

Because of 2,000 years and our **CULTURE**

We think the circumcision “**ISSUE**” silly ... antiquated

We think “Kingdom Cutter” borders on the nasty

We ... today ... **CANNOT** ... because of our culture

We ... today ... **CANNOT** take this seriously ...

Making the **DIATRIBE** all the more boring ...

Putting this into Pitifully Prudent Perspective





What is Paul doing?

Paul is exposing ... in THEIR own language ...

A critical point ... on salvation ...

Fairness of God

How can we make CLEAR the

Law Written on the HEART

and

***FAIR* Righteousness of God**

Let me ask you ... what you see here ...

What do you see ...

What is the meaning of **FAIRNESS?**

When someone
CUTS in line ...

When someone STEALS
what is NOT theirs

When someone ...
decides NOT to
give up a seat to a

Bigot

Quote:

When he waved his hand and ordered us up and out of our seats,
I felt a determination cover my body like a quilt on a winter night.



Rosa Parks, Dec. 1, 1955

Days avg 58° ... Nights avg 41°
Montgomery, Alabama

Cool @ 6 pm when she boarded

She did NOT give up
her seat that day

She was **arrested**

James Blake
Bus Driver

What do you see ...

What do you see HERE?

What is the meaning of **FAIRNESS**?

In the name of National Socialism
when one race **DOMINATES**

Rounds Up & Packs into Railcars

Murders Millions

What is the MEANING of **FAIR Treatment**

Is not **FAIRNESS** truly ... indelibly ... permanently

God's Law Written on our HEARTS



Diatribes ...

Boring ... Tedious ... these are the Privileged
Jewish Christians felt they were **BETTER** than
Greek Christians ... and better by far

The make-believe dialogue ... **diatribe** ...

Paul swoops down upon those ... who **KNOW**

Paul reasons, boringly to us, but **NOT** to **SMART** Jews

Tedious to us, but **NOT the Superior HIGH-minded JEW**

Offensive to us ... Circumcision is a **DEAD**, nasty issue

But to the High-minded Jew ... it is **Works Salvation**



For the Jew ...

DOING the Law and Faith = Same Thing

For Paul ... and all Christians because of Paul

DOING the Law and Faith = Separate

For the Jew ... Circumcision Covered a LOT of Sin

**For the Jew ... Hearing & Having the Law made them
Superior**

For Paul ... for God ... for the Righteousness of God

The Standard was much higher ... indeed it is a

New Testament



Boring ... Tedious ... these are Privileged
Jewish Christians felt they were BETTER than

Greek Christians ... better by far

Very moment this part of the letter is read ...

VERY moment this part of the letter reaches their ears

VERY moment the following read ... the ... the ...

GUILTY Know

21 you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself?

You who preach against stealing, do you steal?



We are on a **diatribe** roll now ...
See the Kingdom Cutters squirm ...

22 You who say that people should
not commit adultery,
do you commit adultery?

You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

23 You who boast in the Law,
do you dishonor God by breaking the Law?

GUILTY Know

24 As it is written: “God’s name is blasphemed
among the Gentiles because of **YOU.**”



2:25-27 Obedience Required

– Non-Circumcised Saints?

25 Circumcision has value if you observe the Law,
but if you break the Law, you have become
as though you had not been circumcised.

26 So then, if those who are not circumcised KEEP
the Law's requirements, will they not be regarded
as though they were circumcised?

Being Jew = Being Circumcised

IF a Jew = You Are Superior



Now then ... halfway up El Capitan ...

We have the Kingdom Cutters ... FEELING

GUILTY



27 The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the Law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a Lawbreaker.



To be a Privileged Jew ... especially a high-minded Jew
One MUST have **the Scar**

I just can't imagine WHO's job it was to be the
Chief Kingdom **CUTTER**
or even more tedious
Chief Cut **CHECKER**

Reflect on Romans 1 ... now ... What if the ...
Kingdom Cut Checker was GAY? ... Enjoyed his Cut Checking
Do you **SEE** St. Paul's offense? **so totally against nature**



2:28-29 Heart Recognized

– Circumcision of Heart

Now for the last two verses of the **diatribe** ...

Last two of chapter 2 ...

Paul pulls the curtain all the way back ...

28 A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly,
nor is circumcision merely outward and physical.



And after the Book of Galatians ... I suspect
St. Paul squirms as having to write this AGAIN
And write to those he LOVES ...

Even to one who was like a MOTHER to him ...

St. Paul closes chapter 2 ... before we Summit El Capitan

The GUILTY now know who they are ...

Yet Paul ... now knows

Those who LOVE him see ...

Those who LOVE God see ...

**2:28 ... nor is circumcision *merely*
outward and physical.**



Paul closes chapter 2 ...

2:29 No ... no ... no ...

NO

No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly;
and circumcision is circumcision of the heart,
by the Spirit,
not by the written code.

Such a person's praise is
not from other people,
but from God.

