

In Romans 2:1-16 Paul appears to provide four possible yardsticks. Let's briefly explore each of them to see which one God uses to measure people for salvation.

A. YARDSTICK #1 is how sinful human beings judge other sinful human beings

In Romans 2:1-3 Paul writes:

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?

These verses say four things:

- (1) Those who condemn others for committing the sins listed in Romans 1:29-31 commit the same sins.**
- (2) Those who condemn others for committing sins that they themselves commit condemn themselves. In condemning others they condemn themselves.**
- (3) God's righteous judgment rightly falls on those who commit these sins.**
- (4) Those who condemn themselves will not escape God's righteous judgment.**

This appears to be one yardstick by which God measures human beings for salvation, namely, how they judge other human beings.

In Romans 2:4 Paul reminds all sinful human beings that God is kind and patient, and defers immediate judgment, so that they may be led to repent of their sins.

In 2:5 he tells them that their stubbornness and refusal to repent is storing up God's wrath against them; and that at the time when God's righteous judgment is revealed, His wrath will be revealed against them.

Is this then one yardstick that God applies to sinful human beings – how