

COMMENTARY – ROMANS –

2: 13: *For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous in God's sight, but the doers of the law who will be justified.* Paul may have in mind Lev. 18:5, *You shall keep my statutes and my ordinances; by doing so one shall live: I am the LORD- a scripture which he quotes later in 10:5 (Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them).* The course of his argument goes on to indicate that, while one who was a 'doer' of the law would be justified, yet, since no-one does it perfectly, there is no justification that way. The antithesis between merely hearing the law and actually doing it is elaborated in James 1:22-25. The expression of 'the doers of the law' is found in Qumran literature. ¹

13: 8- 10: *Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.* ⁹*The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* ¹⁰*Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.* His neighbor is literally 'the other.' It is possible to translate 'he who loves has fulfilled the other law' – i.e. the 'second' commandment of Mark 12:31 or else 'the law of Christ' (cf. Gal. 6:2) over and above the law of the state to which obedience has been enjoined in verses 1-7. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ²

10. *Love is the fulfillment of the law.* 'Fulfilling renders *pleroma*, a word with a wide range of meaning (translated 'full inclusion' in 11:12, 'full number' in 11:25, 'fullness' in 15:29. ³

¹ F. F. Bruce. *Tyndale New Testament Commentary on Romans*, Gen. ed. Canon Leon Morris (Grand Rapids: Erdman's Pub. Co.,1988), 85-86.

² F. F. Bruce. *Tyndale New Testament Commentary on Romans*, Gen. ed. Canon Leon Morris (Grand Rapids: Erdman's Pub. Co.,1988), 226.

³ F. F. Bruce. *Tyndale New Testament Commentary on Romans*, Gen. ed. Canon Leon Morris (Grand Rapids: Erdman's Pub. Co.,1988), 227.