

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD
God Will Judge The Secrets Of All People Through Jesus Christ.
Romans 2:12–16

Why will God judge the secrets of all people through Jesus Christ?

I. Because all have sinned against God (2:12-13).

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

A. The Gentiles have sinned without the law (v. 12a, 14-15).

1. They perish without the law (v. 12a)

12a For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law,

Ephesians 2:12

remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

> How can judgment be just, if those who don't know God's law "perish without the law"?

2. They do by nature what the law requires (vv. 14-15).

▪ **Creation** – General revelation (1:19-20)

19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

▪ **Conduct** – Natural law (v. 14)

14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law.

Here we have the classical location in the New Testament for the apostolic teaching of some sort of natural law. Every human being has some moral sense, some light of nature, by which he is able to distinguish right and wrong. Even the secular philosopher, Immanuel Kant, went to great pains to prove this point, that there is a sense of rightness in the breast of every human being. Human behavioral patterns, no matter how primitive the culture, bear witness to the fact that man is born with some sense of moral awareness. We all have some built-in understanding of what is right and what is wrong. God gives us that innate or inward knowledge of morality. **Sproul, R. C. - *The Gospel of God: An Exposition of Romans*, p. 53**

▪ **Conscience** – Internal witness (v. 15)

15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them

> It is a built-in sense of right and wrong that activates guilt. It functions to evaluate our thoughts and actions.

> Is your conscience captive to the Word of God? Are you keeping your conscience tender?

A tender conscience is the fruit of word-enriched cultivation. A tender conscience takes our thoughts, feelings, and actions captive and examines them in the light of the Bible. It should rebuke us when we find ourselves wayward and encourage us when we obey. And when this lower-court of private examination is working efficiently, it keeps from the higher courts of public rebuke and admonition. **Desiring God**

B. The Jews have sinned under the law (vv. 12b-13).

1. They are judged by the law (v. 12b).

12b and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.

2. They are not to be just hearers of the law but doers of the law (v. 13).

13 For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified.

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

People have a fatal tendency to substitute passive agreement for action. **Mounce R. H.**

- Possessing the law does not grant the Jews immunity to God's judgment.

Romans 3:20

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

> **Are you just surrounded by the gospel and not saturated with the Gospel?**

II. Because it is part of the gospel message (2:16).

16 on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

A. It will be climatic – “on that day when” (v. 16a)

Acts 17:31

because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

B. It is according to the gospel – “according to my gospel” (v. 16b)

2 Corinthians 5:18–19

18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

C. It will be revealing – “God judges the secrets of men” (v. 16c)

1 Chronicles 28:9

“And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought.

C. It will be through Jesus Christ – “the secrets of men by Jesus Christ.”

John 5:27

And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

Acts 17:31

because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

- Without the reality of God's present and future wrath, the cross is emptied of its glory.

Thomas Watson, once said, “Till sin be bitter; Christ will not be sweet.”

How does this verse affect you now?