

ROMANS 2:12-16

NO EXCUSES

LAST WEEK PASTOR BO TAUGHT US ABOUT HYPOCRISY AND THE DANGERS THAT COME WITH IT.

THE GREATEST DANGER BEING THE CONDEMNATION YOU BRING UPON YOURSELF.

BECAUSE IF YOU CONDEMN SOMEONE ELSE FOR SOMETHING THAT YOU YOURSELF ARE GUILTY OF, YOU HAVE PROVEN THAT YOU KNOW IT IS WRONG YET YOU STILL CHOSE TO ENGAGE IN IT.

THEREFORE, YOU HAVE BROUGHT JUDGMENT ON YOURSELF.

ROMANS 2:3,4

³ AND DO YOU THINK THIS, O MAN, YOU WHO JUDGE THOSE PRACTICING SUCH THINGS, AND DOING THE SAME, THAT YOU WILL ESCAPE THE JUDGMENT OF GOD? ⁴ OR DO YOU DESPISE THE RICHES OF HIS GOODNESS, FORBEARANCE, AND LONGSUFFERING, NOT KNOWING THAT THE GOODNESS OF GOD LEADS YOU TO REPENTANCE?

IMAGINE FOR A MOMENT THAT YOU ARE DROWNING; YOU'VE BEEN TOSSED BACK AND FORTH IN THE WAVES AND ARE COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED.

THEN A HAND REACHES DOWN TO SAVE YOU AND INSTEAD OF GRABBING THE HAND YOU SLAP IT AWAY.

THAT'S WHAT VERSE 4 IS DESCRIBING.

GOD IS SO PATIENT WITH US, HE IS RICH IN GOODNESS AND GRACE AND THAT GOODNESS SHOULD DRIVE US TO REPENTANCE.

BUT WHEN WE DON'T REPENT, WE ARE REJECTING THE VERY HAND OF GOD THAT IS REACHING DOWN TO SAVE US.

YOU MAY BE THINKING WELL NO ONE WOULD EVER DO THAT, WHO WOULD REJECT BEING SAVED...

AND MY RESPONSE IS... THE MAJORITY OF HUMANS HAVE REJECTED HIM AND WILL CONTINUE TO REJECT BEING SAVED.

THEY WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO LIVE HYPOCRITICALLY BRINGING EVEN HARSHER PUNISHMENT UPON THEMSELVES.

PAUL MAKES IT VERY CLEAR THAT THE GREATER CONDEMNATION IS FOR THOSE THAT HAVE HEARD THE TRUTH AND REJECT IT.

ROMANS 2:5

⁵ BUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR HARDNESS AND YOUR ^[A]IMPENITENT HEART YOU ARE ^[B]TREASURING UP FOR YOURSELF WRATH IN THE DAY OF WRATH AND REVELATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT OF GOD,

AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE CALLED TO STORE UP TREASURES WHERE?

IN HEAVEN!

WHERE RUST AND MOTHS CANNOT DESTROY THEM.

BUT HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT THAT THE NON-BELIEVER IS ALSO STORING UP TREASURE?

THIS TREASURE ALSO CANNOT BE DESTROYED BY RUST OR MOTHS, IT IS THE WRATH OF GOD.

WELL, HOW IS THE WRATH OF GOD A TREASURE???

THE GREEK WORD FOR TREASURE MEANS WEALTH, OR DEPOSIT.

WE KNOW IN OUR ENGLISH LANGUAGE THAT WEALTH MEANS A SURPLUS OR ABUNDANCE.

THIS SAME PRINCIPLE CAN BE APPLIED TO THE WRATH OF GOD THAT NON-BELIEVERS ARE STORING FOR THEMSELVES.

THEY ARE STORING UP FOR THEMSELVES THE ABUNDANT ETERNAL WRATH OF GOD.

ROMANS 2:6

⁶ WHO “WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS”:

IN VERSE 6 WE SEE CLEARLY THE CONCEPT OF YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.

IF YOU ARE A GOOD STEWARD OF THE RESOURCES GOD HAS GIVEN YOU THEN GENERALLY SPEAKING YOU WILL REAP A GOOD HARVEST.

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU ARE LAZY AND SQUANDER WHAT YOU’VE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH, YOU WILL REAP LITTLE TO NO HARVEST.

ROMANS 2:7

⁷ ETERNAL LIFE TO THOSE WHO BY PATIENT CONTINUANCE IN DOING GOOD SEEK FOR GLORY, HONOR, AND IMMORTALITY;

NOTICE PAUL DOESN’T SAY “THOSE WHO SEEK TO DO GOOD”

WE MUST READ SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY SO AS NOT TO MISCONSTRUE THE SCRIPTURE.

IF YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD, YOU WILL PATIENTLY CONTINUE IN DOING GOOD.

THIS PATIENCE IS A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT, IT IS A BYPRODUCT OF SALVATION NOT A MEANS TO ATTAIN SALVATION.

AS CHRISTIANS WE SEEK TO GLORIFY GOD, WE SEEK TO HONOR HIM AND WE SEEK ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

ROMANS 2:8,9

⁸ BUT TO THOSE WHO ARE SELF-SEEKING AND DO NOT OBEY THE TRUTH, BUT OBEY UNRIGHTEOUSNESS—INDIGNATION AND WRATH, ⁹ TRIBULATION AND ANGUISH, ON EVERY SOUL OF MAN WHO DOES EVIL, OF THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO OF THE ^[G]GREEK;

WHO OR WHAT YOU ARE OBEDIENT TO, DETERMINES YOUR ETERNITY.

IF YOU OBEY YOURSELF AND YOUR DESIRES YOU ARE STORING UP FOR YOURSELF WRATH.

THEN IN VERSE 9 WE SEE SOMETHING WE HAVEN'T SEEN YET; PAUL DIFFERENTIATES BETWEEN THE JEW AND THE GREEK...

HE SAYS THE JEW FIRST...

THIS MEANS THAT GOD WILL DEAL WITH THE UNBELIEVING JEWS FIRST AND THEN HE WILL DEAL WITH THE UNREGENERATE GENTILES.

DOES THIS MEAN THAT HE WILL TAKE IT EASIER ON THE JEWISH PEOPLE THAT HAVE REJECTED JESUS?

NOT IN THE LEAST, IN FACT ANYONE THAT HAS HEARD THE TRUTH BUT HAS REJECTED IT WILL HAVE A FAR GREATER PUNISHMENT WHETHER THEY ARE JEW OR GENTILE.

ROMANS 2:10

¹⁰ BUT GLORY, HONOR, AND PEACE TO EVERYONE WHO WORKS WHAT IS GOOD, TO THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO TO THE GREEK.

TWICE IN THIS PASSAGE WE SEE THE PHRASE "THE JEW FIRST THEN THE GREEK"

AND NOTICE PAUL FIRST REFERS TO THOSE THAT ARE CONDEMNED.

JEWS WERE USED TO THINKING OF THEMSELVES FIRST.

GOD DID INDEED CHOOSE THE NATION OF ISRAEL TO BE HIS ELECT NATION.

AMOS 3:2

"YOU ONLY HAVE I KNOWN OF ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH; THEREFORE I WILL PUNISH YOU FOR ALL YOUR INIQUITIES."

SINCE THEY WERE CHOSEN TO BE THE FIRST IN SALVATION OPPORTUNITY, THIS MEANS THAT THEY ARE ALSO FIRST IN JUDGEMENT.

ROMANS 2:11

11 FOR THERE IS NO PARTIALITY WITH GOD.

GOSH PAUL, I THOUGHT YOU JUST SAID THAT THE JEWISH PEOPLE WILL BE JUDGED FIRST, NOW YOU'RE SAYING THAT THERE IS NO PARTIALITY WITH GOD.

LET'S CLEAR THIS UP, JUST BECAUSE THERE IS A DIFFERENTIATION BETWEEN PEOPLE DOESN'T MEAN THAT THERE IS BIAS OR PARTIALITY.

THE WORD PARTIALITY IN THE GREEK LITERALLY MEANS "TO RECEIVE A FACE"

OR TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO A PERSON JUST BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS.

THIS IS WHY THE "LADY OF JUSTICE" STATUE SEEN IN MANY COURTHOUSES IS WEARING A BLINDFOLD.

TO SYMBOLIZE THAT WHEN IT COMES TO JUSTICE IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOU ARE.

THE JEWISH PEOPLE THOUGHT SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY WERE JEWISH THAT THEY WERE PROTECTED.

THEY WERE COUNTING ON THEIR ANCESTRY AND THEIR HERITAGE FOR SALVATION, THEY WERE RELYING ON THEIR WORKS AND THEIR RELIGION TO SAVE THEM.

ALL THE WHILE GROWING COLD AND DISTANT TO THE LOVING FATHER THAT EXTENDED SUCH GRACE AND PATIENCE TOWARDS THEM.

AND MAY I SAY THAT THE WORLD IS STILL FULL OF THESE PEOPLE.

I GO TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY, I ONLY LISTEN TO CHRISTIAN MUSIC, I DON'T SMOKE OR DRINK, I FOLLOW ALL THE RULES GOD!

ISN'T THAT GOOD FOR SOMETHING?

YES, IT IS, GREATER CONDEMNATION.

IF YOU'RE FOCUSED ON FOLLOWING A LIST OF RULES YOU'VE COMPLETELY MISSED THE POINT.

YOU MUST BE FIXATED ON JESUS CHRIST; YOU MUST BE FULLY DEVOTED TO FOLLOWING HIM AND SERVING HIM.

SO MANY PEOPLE I FEAR DESIRE TO KNOW ABOUT GOD BUT DON'T REALLY WANT TO KNOW HIM.

ARE YOU HERE BECAUSE YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT GOD OR DO YOU TRULY WANT TO KNOW HIM.

DO YOU DESIRE A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR CREATOR.

DO YOU LONG TO STAND IN HIS PRESENCE AND SEE HIS GLORIOUS FACE.

DO YOU ANXIOUSLY AWAIT THE DAY HE EMBRACES YOU AND TELLS YOU THAT HE LOVES YOU.

WHAT WE HAVE TO REMEMBER IS THAT GOD ALREADY KNOWS US, BETTER THAN WE EVEN KNOW OURSELVES.

THERE'S NOTHING THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BRING TO THE TABLE THAT HE DOESN'T ALREADY KNOW ABOUT.

SO, STOP HIDING BEHIND RELIGION AND CRY OUT TO THE ONE THAT CAN ACTUALLY SAVE YOU.

IN CHAPTER 1 OF ROMANS, WE LEARNED THAT MAN IS WITHOUT EXCUSE WHEN IT COMES TO THE EXISTENCE OF GOD.

WE LEARNED THAT CREATION ITSELF PROCLAIMS NOT ONLY THE EXISTENCE OF GOD BUT ALSO HIS GOODNESS.

TODAY WE WILL LEARN THAT IT DOESN'T STOP WITH CREATION.

EVERYTHING INSIDE OF US ALSO PROCLAIMS THE EXISTENCE AND THE GLORY OF GOD.

THERE IS NO EXCUSE WHATSOEVER TO DENY WHO GOD IS AND WHO CHRIST IS, OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT PEOPLE ARE IN FEAR OF THE JUDGMENT THAT COMES ALONG WITH THAT ADMISSION.

PAUL EVEN STARTS OUT CHAPTER 2 WITH THE STATEMENT "THEREFORE YOU ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE"

NOW LETS GET INTO THE LESSON...

ROMANS 2:12-16

¹² FOR AS MANY AS HAVE SINNED WITHOUT LAW WILL ALSO PERISH WITHOUT LAW, AND AS MANY AS HAVE SINNED IN THE LAW WILL BE JUDGED BY THE LAW ¹³ (FOR NOT THE HEARERS OF THE LAW ARE JUST IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, BUT THE DOERS OF THE LAW WILL BE JUSTIFIED; ¹⁴ FOR WHEN GENTILES, WHO DO NOT HAVE THE LAW, BY NATURE DO THE THINGS IN THE LAW, THESE, ALTHOUGH NOT HAVING THE LAW, ARE A LAW TO THEMSELVES, ¹⁵ WHO SHOW THE WORK OF THE LAW WRITTEN IN THEIR HEARTS, THEIR CONSCIENCE ALSO BEARING WITNESS, AND BETWEEN THEMSELVES THEIR THOUGHTS ACCUSING OR ELSE EXCUSING THEM) ¹⁶ IN THE DAY WHEN GOD WILL JUDGE THE SECRETS OF MEN BY JESUS CHRIST, ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL.

ROMANS 2:12

¹² FOR AS MANY AS HAVE SINNED WITHOUT LAW WILL ALSO PERISH WITHOUT LAW, AND AS MANY AS HAVE SINNED IN THE LAW WILL BE JUDGED BY THE LAW

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS STATEMENT?

WHY DID PAUL PUT THIS IN HERE?

WHETHER YOU ARE A JEW OR A GENTILE, JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO ENGAGE IN THE DEMORALIZING SINS LISTED IN THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER DOESN'T MAKE YOU EXEMPT FROM JUDGMENT.

IN FACT, YOU WILL BE JUDGED MORE HARSHLY.

GOD'S IMPARTIALITY AS DESCRIBED IN VERSE 11 TESTIFIES TO THE FACT THAT GOD IS NOT BIASED BASED ON YOUR HERITAGE.

THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT HE DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT VARYING SPIRITUAL LIGHT THAT PEOPLE HAVE.

HE DIFFERENTIATES BETWEEN 2 DISTINCT GROUPS OF SINNERS.

THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR GODS LAW AND THOSE WHO HAVE.

THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT GENTILES HAVE NO AWARENESS OF GOD OR A SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG.

PAUL ESTABLISHED THAT VERY CLEARLY IN CHAPTER 1 AND WILL REITERATE IT IN THE NEXT FEW VERSES.

GENTILES WHO HAVE SINNED WITHOUT THE LAW WILL THEREFORE PERISH WITHOUT THE LAW...

MEANING THEY WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THEIR LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.

THIS INCLUDES THE VAST MAJORITY OF HUMANITY OF ALL TIME.

EVEN WITH INCREASED ABILITY AND AVENUES OF SHARING THE GOSPEL, MOST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD HAVE NEVER HEARD A CLEAR AND CONCISE TEACHING FROM THE WORD OF GOD.

LET ALONE BEEN ABLE TO GRASP CLEARLY THE KNOWLEDGE OF ITS SAVING TRUTHS.

THE CHURCH DOES A DECENT JOB AT EVANGELIZING BUT FAILS MISERABLY AT DISCIPLESHIP.

PEOPLE NEED TO BE DISCIPLED; PEOPLE NEED STRONG MEN AND WOMEN OF FAITH TO POUR IN TO THEM AND GUIDE THEM.

IT'S LIKE GIVING A 16-YEAR-OLD AN OWNER'S MANUAL AND THE KEYS TO A CAR BUT NEVER TEACHING THEM HOW TO DRIVE IT.

THEY WILL WRECK THE CAR, JUST LIKE SOMEONE THAT IS HANDED A BIBLE AND GIVEN A 20-MINUTE GOSPEL PRESENTATION WILL HAVE VERY LITTLE CHANCE AT SUCCESS.

SOMEWHERE OVER THE PAST CENTURY THE MAJORITY OF CHURCHES HAVE BECOME SOLELY EVANGELISTIC.

FLASHY PERFORMANCES, HYPED UP ENERGETIC SERMONS WITH NO DEPTH.

IT IS NOT UP TO US TO SAVE PEOPLE BUT IT IS UP TO US TO MAKE DISCIPLES.

TO TEACH THE ENTIRE WORD, TO GO SO MUCH DEEPER THAN JUST EVANGELISM AND TRULY EQUIP THE SAINTS TO DO WHAT WE'VE BEEN CALLED TO.

PAUL SAYS IN VERSE 12 THAT THEY WILL PERISH WITHOUT THE LAW...

THE GREEK WORD FOR PERISH IS APOLLUMI, WHICH ALLUDES TO DESTRUCTION.

BASICALLY, IT MEANS THAT SOMETHING HAS BEEN RUINED AND IS NO LONGER USABLE FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSE.

THIS IS THE SAME TERM JESUS USES IN MATTHEW 10:28 WHEN HE SPEAKS OF THOSE THAT ARE THROWN INTO HELL.

THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WORLD TAKES EXTREME OFFENSE TO.

NOT ONLY THAT PEOPLE THAT REJECT CHRIST WILL GO TO HELL BUT ALSO THE VERY EXISTENCE OF HELL.

YOU CAN CHOOSE NOT TO BELIEVE IN HELL JUST LIKE CAN CHOOSE NOT TO BELIEVE IN GOD... IT DOESN'T MAKE EITHER OF THEM ANY LESS REAL.

THE LOST GENTILE WILL PERISH JUST AS THE LOST JEW.

BUT AS PAUL HAS EXPRESSED THEIR ETERNAL SUFFERING WILL BE LESS THAN THAT OF THE JEWS, WHO HAVE HAD THE IMMEASURABLE ADVANTAGE OF POSSESSING GOD'S LAW.

JESUS MAKES THIS POINT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR IN LUKE 12

LUKE 12:42-48

42 AND THE LORD SAID, "WHO THEN IS THAT FAITHFUL AND WISE STEWARD, WHOM HIS MASTER WILL MAKE RULER OVER HIS HOUSEHOLD, TO GIVE THEM THEIR PORTION OF FOOD^[H] IN DUE SEASON? 43 BLESSED IS THAT SERVANT WHOM HIS MASTER WILL FIND SO DOING WHEN HE COMES. 44 TRULY, I SAY TO YOU THAT HE WILL MAKE HIM RULER OVER ALL THAT HE HAS. 45 BUT IF THAT SERVANT SAYS IN HIS HEART, 'MY MASTER IS DELAYING HIS COMING,' AND BEGINS TO BEAT THE MALE AND FEMALE SERVANTS, AND TO EAT AND DRINK AND BE DRUNK, 46 THE MASTER OF THAT SERVANT WILL COME ON A DAY WHEN HE IS NOT LOOKING FOR HIM, AND AT AN HOUR WHEN HE IS NOT AWARE, AND WILL CUT HIM IN TWO AND APPOINT HIM HIS PORTION WITH THE UNBELIEVERS. 47 AND THAT SERVANT WHO KNEW HIS MASTER'S WILL, AND DID NOT PREPARE HIMSELF OR DO ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, SHALL BE BEATEN WITH MANY STRIPES. 48 BUT HE WHO DID NOT KNOW, YET COMMITTED THINGS DESERVING OF STRIPES, SHALL BE BEATEN WITH FEW. FOR EVERYONE TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, FROM HIM MUCH WILL BE REQUIRED; AND TO WHOM MUCH HAS BEEN COMMITTED, OF HIM THEY WILL ASK THE MORE.

THE LAW WAS GIVEN TO THE JEWS SO THEY COULD SHARE IT WITH THE WORLD, BUT THEY DIDN'T.

THEY BECAME SELFISH AND PRIDEFUL.

INSTEAD OF BEING GRATEFUL TO GOD FOR HIS GRACE AND LOVE TOWARDS THEM, THEY ELEVATED THEMSELVES ABOVE THE REST OF THE WORLD.

THEY LET THE LAW BECOME THEIR GOD AND THEREFORE COMPLETELY NEGATED THEIR BLESSING.

THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE SAVED BY THE LAW BUT SINCE THEY CHOSE THE LAW OVER GOD, THEY BROUGHT GREATER CONDEMNATION UPON THEMSELVES.

THEY KNEW THAT ABRAHAM WAS ACCOUNTED RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE OF HIS FAITH.

BUT INSTEAD OF SEEKING GOD THEMSELVES AND ASKING GOD TO GIVE THEM THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM, THEY FIGURE THEY'D JUST RIDE ON INTO HEAVEN ON ABRAHAM'S FAITH.

WHO YOU KNOW ONLY MATTERS IF THAT WHO IS JESUS CHRIST.

ROMANS 2:13

13 (FOR NOT THE HEARERS OF THE LAW ARE JUST IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, BUT THE DOERS OF THE LAW WILL BE JUSTIFIED;

HERE WE GO AGAIN... IS PAUL PROMOTING A WORKS BASED RELIGIOUS SYSTEM?

ABSOLUTELY NOT!

THIS IS ANOTHER WARNING AGAINST RELIGION.

RELIGION CANNOT SAVE YOU.

JAMES WARNS AGAINST THIS

JAMES 1:21-24

21 THEREFORE LAY ASIDE ALL FILTHINESS AND ^[d]OVERFLOW OF WICKEDNESS, AND RECEIVE WITH MEEKNESS THE IMPLANTED WORD, WHICH IS ABLE TO SAVE YOUR SOULS.

JAMES SAYS RECEIVE WITH MEEKNESS THE IMPLANTED WORD...

MEEKNESS IS ALSO TRANSLATED AS HUMILITY.

IN ORDER FOR US TO TRULY RECEIVE GODS WORD AND APPLY IT TO OUR LIVES WE MUST APPROACH HIM IN HUMBLE SUBMISSION.

IT SAYS THE IMPLANTED WORD IS ABLE TO SAVE OUR SOULS BUT ONLY IF WE RECEIVE IT IN HUMILITY.

BECAUSE A PROUD HEART CAN NEVER RECEIVE GODS WORD THE WAY IT IS INTENDED.

JAMES 1:22

22 BUT BE DOERS OF THE WORD, AND NOT HEARERS ONLY, DECEIVING YOURSELVES.

HERE WE HAVE SOMETHING VERY SIMILAR ALMOST VERBATIM TO WHAT PAUL SAYS IN VERSE 13.

JESUS SAYS IN MATTHEW 7 WHOEVER HEARS THESE WORDS OF MINE AND DOES THEM IS LIKE A WISE MAN WHO BUILT HIS HOUSE ON THE ROCK.

FOLLOW THROUGH IS IMPORTANT.

YES, WE COME TO JESUS AS WE ARE BUT AS WE ARE READING TODAY THERE IS A CALL FOR US TO CHANGE.

THERE IS A CALL TO OBEDIENCE.

THERE IS A CALL TO STRIVE TOWARDS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

JAMES 1:23,24

23 FOR IF ANYONE IS A HEARER OF THE WORD AND NOT A DOER, HE IS LIKE A MAN OBSERVING HIS NATURAL FACE IN A MIRROR; 24 FOR HE OBSERVES HIMSELF, GOES AWAY, AND IMMEDIATELY FORGETS WHAT KIND OF MAN HE WAS.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE PERSON THAT IS SATISFIED WITH SUPERFICIALLY KNOWING GOD'S WORD IS LIVING IN SPIRITUAL ILLUSION.

THINKING HE IS SAVED WHEN IN REALITY HE IS NOT.

BY LOOKING IN A MIRROR, HE JUDGES HIMSELF BY HIMSELF, RATHER THAN JUDGING HIMSELF BY THE WORD OF GOD.

WHICH HE KNOWS MUCH ABOUT BUT DOESN'T BELIEVE IT OR ACCEPT IT.

HIS DISOBEDIENCE PROVES HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IT OR ACCEPT IT.

THE MORE HE HEARS THE WORD OF GOD WITHOUT OBEYING IT THE MORE HE PILES UP FOR HIMSELF ON THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT.

PAUL ENDS ROMANS 2:13 BY SAYING "THE DOERS OF THE LAW WILL BE JUSTIFIED."

THIS WORD JUSTIFIED IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE.

THIS WORD IS USED SOME 30 TIMES IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS.

IT COMES FROM THE GREEK WORD FOR RIGHTEOUS AND MEANS TO BE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS.

IT MEANS TO BE PARDONED FROM THE GUILT OF SIN.

IT MEANS THAT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST IS IMPUTED TO THE REDEEMED CHILD OF GOD.

GOD DECLARES SINNERS RIGHTEOUS SOLELY ON ACCOUNT OF JESUS'S SACRIFICIAL DEATH.

WE ARE JUSTIFIED BEFORE THE FATHER THROUGH THE SON.

ROMANS 2:14, 15

14 FOR WHEN GENTILES, WHO DO NOT HAVE THE LAW, BY NATURE DO THE THINGS IN THE LAW, THESE, ALTHOUGH NOT HAVING THE LAW, ARE A LAW TO THEMSELVES, 15 WHO SHOW THE WORK OF THE LAW WRITTEN IN THEIR HEARTS, THEIR CONSCIENCE ALSO BEARING WITNESS, AND BETWEEN THEMSELVES THEIR THOUGHTS ACCUSING OR ELSE EXCUSING THEM)

THERE IS A MORAL CODE THAT IS ENGRAINED IN PEOPLE.

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY PAGAN SOCIETIES THROUGHOUT HISTORY THAT KNEW THEFT AND MURDER WERE WRONG.

BUT WHO TOLD THEM IT WAS WRONG?

HOW DID THEY GET THAT INFORMATION?

DID SOMEONE JUST DECIDE THAT MURDER WAS BAD AND START ENFORCING A NO MURDER POLICY?

WE KNOW IT IS WRONG BECAUSE THE LAW HAS BEEN WRITTEN IN OUR HEARTS.

PAUL USES THE SAME WORD WE USE TODAY, HE SAYS THEIR CONSCIENCE BEARS WITNESS.

AS I THINK ABOUT OUR CONSCIENCE I THINK ABOUT PAIN.

PAIN HAS SUCH A NEGATIVE CONNOTATION.

WE NEVER WANT TO EXPERIENCE PAIN BUT IT IS INEVITABLE.

EVERY PERSON THAT EVER LIVES WILL EXPERIENCE SOME FORM OF PAIN.

AND WHILE WE DON'T LIKE IT AND DO OUR BEST TO AVOID IT, PAIN IS NECESSARY AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT PAIN IS GIFT FROM GOD.

AND I KNOW MOST OF YOU ARE PROBABLY THINKING OK THE PASTOR HAS LOST HIS MIND, BUT HEAR ME OUT.

PAIN HAS A VERY IMPORTANT PURPOSE, AND THAT PURPOSE IS TO LET US KNOW THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG.

WHEN WE HURT OURSELF THE PAIN TELLS US THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG.

THINK ABOUT APPENDICITIS, THE PAIN YOU EXPERIENCE TELLS YOU THAT SOMETHING IS VERY WRONG AND YOU NEED TO GET TO THE HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY.

AND WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU IGNORE THE PAIN AND DON'T GO TO THE HOSPITAL.

THE APPENDIX RUPTURES AND YOU DIE.

WELL, JUST LIKE PHYSICAL PAIN WARNS US THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG, THE PAIN OUR CONSCIENCE CAUSES US TO FEEL IS A WARNING AS WELL.

THAT GUILT WE FEEL IS A WARNING, IT IS A CALL TO REPENTANCE.

AND IF WE IGNORE IT WILL LEAD TO OUR DESTRUCTION.

HOW YOU REACT TO YOUR CONSCIENCE WILL TELL YOU WHO YOU TRULY ARE.

IT REVEALS THE STATE OF YOUR HEART.

SO, DO YOU IGNORE IT, DO YOU RUN FROM IT, DO YOU TRY TO NUMB IT WITH ANYTHING YOU CAN?

DO YOU TRY TO DISTRACT YOURSELF FROM IT SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT?

THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS YOU CAN MAKE THE GUILT GO AWAY...

THE FIRST IS CONFESS YOUR SINS, CRY OUT TO GOD AND ASK HIM TO FORGIVE YOU AND RELEASE YOU FROM THE GUILT THAT YOU CARRY.

FULLY SURRENDER TO HIM IN EVERY AREA OF YOUR LIFE.

THE OTHER WAY IS TO CONTINUE TO IGNORE IT AND IT WILL BE SEARED WITH A HOT IRON.

ONE WAY LEADS TO RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THE OTHER TO AN ETERNITY OF SUFFERING.

AND I KNOW THERE ARE MANY SITTING HERE TODAY THAT ARE THINKING “I HAVE CONFESSED MY SINS, I HAVE REPENTED, I HAVE ASKED FOR FORGIVENESS, BUT I STILL FEEL GUILTY”

HERE’S WHAT I HAVE TO SAY TO THAT.

SOMETIMES IT JUST TAKES WORKING THROUGH THOSE THINGS WITH A TRUSTED GODLY FRIEND.

OFTEN WHAT WE TEND TO DO IS ASK GOD FOR FORGIVENESS BUT WE REFUSE TO FORGIVE OURSELVES.

IF YOU’RE HERE TODAY AND WONDERING, HOW CAN I FORGIVE MYSELF FOR THE AWFUL THINGS I’VE DONE.

THIS IS MY ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOU.

HEBREWS 12:1,2

THEREFORE WE ALSO, SINCE WE ARE SURROUNDED BY SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES, LET US LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT, AND THE SIN WHICH SO EASILY ENSNARES US, AND LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US, ² LOOKING UNTO JESUS, THE ^[A] AUTHOR AND ^[B] FINISHER OF OUR FAITH, WHO FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME, AND HAS SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD.

NOTICE THE WRITER OF HEBREWS SAYS EVERY WEIGHT AND SIN.

MEANING HE HAS DIFFERENTIATED BETWEEN THE SIN AND THE WEIGHT.

THE WEIGHT THAT HOLDS US BACK THE MOST IS OUR PAST.

IF GOD, THE HOLY, PERFECT CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING IN IT, CAN FORGIVE YOU THEN ITS TIME TO FORGIVE YOURSELF.

YOU CAN'T BE FOCUSED ON JESUS IF YOU'RE LIVING IN THE PAST.

SO, IF YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO TELL YOU IT'S OK TO FORGIVE YOURSELF AND MOVE ON THEN HERE IT IS...

IT'S OK, NO MATTER WHAT IT IS YOU CAN LET IT GO AND MOVE FORWARD INTO THE LIFE OF FREEDOM THAT JESUS WANTS YOU TO HAVE.

IF THE SON SETS YOU FREE YOU SHALL BE FREE INDEED!

ROMANS 2:14, 15

¹⁴ FOR WHEN GENTILES, WHO DO NOT HAVE THE LAW, BY NATURE DO THE THINGS IN THE LAW, THESE, ALTHOUGH NOT HAVING THE LAW, ARE A LAW TO THEMSELVES, ¹⁵ WHO SHOW THE WORK OF THE LAW WRITTEN IN THEIR HEARTS, THEIR CONSCIENCE ALSO BEARING WITNESS, AND BETWEEN THEMSELVES THEIR THOUGHTS ACCUSING OR ELSE EXCUSING THEM)

I THINK WE CAN AGREE THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF PEOPLE ARE ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE PRISONS.

THE MAJORITY OF PEOPLE FOLLOW THE LAWS THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY OUR GOVERNMENT.

DOES THIS MEAN THAT PEOPLE ARE GOOD FOR THE MOST PART?

NOT FROM A SPIRITUAL STANDPOINT, BUT FROM A MORAL STANDPOINT YES.

DOES THAT HAVE ANY BEARING ON THEIR ETERNITY, NOT IN THE LEAST.

SO THEN WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

IT MEANS THAT THERE IS NO EXCUSE.

THE LAW THAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN ON OUR HEARTS IS ANOTHER REASON THAT WE ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE WHEN IT COMES TO KNOWING GOD.

PAUL HAS LAID OUT 4 REASONS WHY PEOPLE ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE.

FIRST IS CREATION, AS WE'VE COVERED IN DETAIL, CREATION ITSELF PROCLAIMS WHO GOD IS.

THE ONLY WAY TO LOOK AT THE CREATED UNIVERSE AND ALL OF OUR SURROUNDINGS AND NOT BELIEVE IN GOD IS TO CHOOSE BE IGNORANT.

THE SECOND REASON WE ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE IS OUR BEHAVIOR, PAUL SAYS *WHO SHOW THE WORK OF THE LAW WRITTEN IN THEIR HEARTS.*

WELL, HOW DO THEY SHOW IT?

BY THEIR OUTWARD ACTIONS, THEIR BEHAVIOR, THE WAY THEY CONDUCT THEMSELVES ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS.

THROUGHOUT HISTORY THERE HAVE BEEN MANY UNBELIEVERS WHO HAVE BEEN HONEST IN BUSINESS, RESPECTED THEIR PARENTS, BEEN FAITHFUL TO THEIR SPOUSE, CARED FOR THEIR CHILDREN, AND HAVE BEEN GENEROUS TO THOSE IN NEED.

GOD'S STANDARD OF JUSTICE HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN MANY SECULAR JUDICIAL SYSTEMS.

AS WELL AS MANY PAGAN PHILOSOPHIES THAT CLOSELY PARALLEL THOSE IN SCRIPTURE.

THE FACT THAT THIS TAKES PLACE, THE FACT THAT PEOPLE DID GOOD THINGS, PROVES THAT THEY HAD THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD WRITTEN ON THEIR HEARTS.

SO, IF THOSE PEOPLE NEVER COME TO TRUST IN THE ONE TRUE GOD, THEIR GOOD DEEDS WILL ACTUALLY STAND AS A WITNESS AGAINST THEM ON THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT.

IMAGINE YOUR GOOD CONDUCT BEING WHAT CONVICTED YOU ON THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT.

GOD SAYING TO YOU “YOU OBVIOUSLY KNEW HOW TO BEHAVE AND HOW TO CONDUCT YOURSELF IN A WAY THAT WAS MORALLY ACCEPTABLE, BUT YOU REJECTED ME, THE ONE THAT GAVE THAT MORAL COMPASS.”

INSTEAD OF LETTING THAT MORAL COMPASS LEAD YOU TO GOD YOU ALLOWED IT TO BECOME A SENSE OF PRIDE AND THEREFORE IT BECAME YOUR OBJECT OF WORSHIP...

THE 3RD REASON MAN IS WITHOUT EXCUSE IS BECAUSE OF HIS CONSCIENCE.

THE THING ABOUT THE CONSCIENCE IS THAT IT HAS VARYING DEGREES OF SENSITIVITY DEPENDING ON WHETHER OR NOT YOU OBEY IT OR RESIST IT.

THE MORE YOU OBEY YOUR CONSCIENCE AND SEEK TO WALK IN OBEDIENCE WITH GOD THE MORE STRONGLY IT WILL CONVICT YOU OF YOUR SIN.

BUT IF YOU CHOOSE TO IGNORE IT EVENTUALLY IT WILL BECOME VOID AND USELESS.

GOD IS VERY PATIENT IN THIS AREA, BUT IF YOU IGNORE IT LONG ENOUGH, IF YOU IGNORE GOD LONG ENOUGH, HE WILL TURN YOU OVER TO YOUR SIN AND ALLOW IT TO RUN ITS COURSE.

AT THAT POINT YOU WILL EXPERIENCE THE WRATH OF ABANDONMENT.

YOUR CONSCIENCE WILL BE SEARED AND IT WILL DIE, THE GUILT WILL QUICKLY TURN INTO A GROWING DESIRE FOR MORE SIN AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS YOUR DESTRUCTION IS INEVITABLE.

THE FOURTH REASON WE ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE IS BECAUSE OF OUR THOUGHTS.

PAUL ENDS VERSE 15 WITH THIS STATEMENT... “*AND BETWEEN THEMSELVES THEIR THOUGHTS ACCUSING OR ELSE EXCUSING THEM*)”

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY CLOSELY RELATED TO THE CONSCIENCE BUT IT IS DIFFERENT THAN THE CONSCIENCE.

OUR THOUGHTS ARE OFTEN GUIDED BY OUR CONSCIENCE.

THERE ARE MANY NONBELIEVERS THAT ARE POLICE OFFICERS THAT FEEL CALLED TO PROTECT THE HELPLESS.

THERE ARE MANY NONBELIEVERS THAT ARE PARAMEDICS THAT FEEL CALLED TO HELP THOSE THAT ARE IN NEED.

THE SAME GOES FOR DOCTORS AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.

SO WHAT DRIVES THEM TO DO THESE THINGS?

THE LAW OF GOD THAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN IN THEIR HEARTS TELLS THEM THAT WE WERE CREATED TO HELP AND SERVE OTHERS.

THEY ARE GUIDED TO DO THINGS BY THEIR THOUGHTS OF WHAT IS GOOD.

EVEN THE MOST GODLESS PEOPLE WILL BECOME OUTRAGED AT THE MURDER OF AN INNOCENT DEFENSELESS CHILD.

PAGANS ARE ABLE TO DISCERN RIGHT FROM WRONG WITHOUT HAVING TO BE TOLD.

AND FOR THESE 4 REASONS THERE WILL BE NO PERSON THAT CAN STAND BEFORE GOD ON THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT AND SAY “BUT GOD I DIDN’T KNOW”

THERE WILL BE NO EXCUSES.

ACTS 17:26-31

26 AND HE HAS MADE FROM ONE ^[U]BLOOD EVERY NATION OF MEN TO DWELL ON ALL THE FACE OF THE EARTH, AND HAS DETERMINED THEIR PREAPPOINTED TIMES AND THE BOUNDARIES OF THEIR DWELLINGS, 27 SO THAT THEY SHOULD SEEK THE LORD, IN THE HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT GROPE FOR HIM AND FIND HIM, THOUGH HE IS NOT FAR FROM EACH ONE OF US; 28 FOR IN HIM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING, AS ALSO SOME OF YOUR OWN POETS HAVE SAID, 'FOR WE ARE ALSO HIS OFFSPRING.' 29 THEREFORE, SINCE WE ARE THE OFFSPRING OF GOD, WE OUGHT NOT TO THINK THAT THE DIVINE NATURE IS LIKE GOLD OR SILVER OR STONE, SOMETHING SHAPED BY ART AND MAN'S DEVISING. 30 TRULY, THESE TIMES OF IGNORANCE GOD OVERLOOKED, BUT NOW COMMANDS ALL MEN EVERYWHERE TO REPENT, 31 BECAUSE HE HAS APPOINTED A DAY ON WHICH HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS BY THE MAN WHOM HE HAS ORDAINED. HE HAS GIVEN ASSURANCE OF THIS TO ALL BY RAISING HIM FROM THE DEAD."

VERSE 27 SAYS "27 SO THAT THEY SHOULD SEEK THE LORD, IN THE HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT GROPE FOR HIM AND FIND HIM, THOUGH HE IS NOT FAR FROM EACH ONE OF US;"

THE PHRASE "THAT THEY MIGHT GROPE FROM HIM AND FIND HIM ALLUDES TO SOMEONE THAT IS BLIND OR IN THE DARK."

SOMEONE THAT IS TRYING TO FEEL THEIR WAY TO SAFETY.

IT ALSO SAYS THAT HE IS NOT FAR FROM US.

GOD HAS LEFT MAN WITH NO EXCUSE.

THE ISSUE IS THAT MOST PEOPLE AREN'T LOOKING FOR HIM.

THEY ARE GROPING FOR THE DESIRE OF THEIR HEART; THEY ARE PURSUING THE FLESH AND NOT CHRIST.

ROMANS 2:12-16

¹² FOR AS MANY AS HAVE SINNED WITHOUT LAW WILL ALSO PERISH WITHOUT LAW, AND AS MANY AS HAVE SINNED IN THE LAW WILL BE JUDGED BY THE LAW ¹³ (FOR NOT THE HEARERS OF THE LAW ARE JUST IN THE SIGHT OF GOD, BUT THE DOERS OF THE LAW WILL BE JUSTIFIED; ¹⁴ FOR WHEN GENTILES, WHO DO NOT HAVE THE LAW, BY NATURE DO THE THINGS IN THE LAW, THESE, ALTHOUGH NOT HAVING THE LAW, ARE A LAW TO THEMSELVES, ¹⁵ WHO SHOW THE WORK OF THE LAW WRITTEN IN THEIR HEARTS, THEIR CONSCIENCE ALSO BEARING WITNESS, AND BETWEEN THEMSELVES THEIR THOUGHTS ACCUSING OR ELSE EXCUSING THEM) ¹⁶ IN THE DAY WHEN GOD WILL JUDGE THE SECRETS OF MEN BY JESUS CHRIST, ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL.

I WANTED TO RE-READ THIS BECAUSE IT IS ACTUALLY JUST ONE SENTENCE.

VERSE 16 TELLS US WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN AS A RESULT OF THE PREVIOUS VERSES.

PEOPLE WILL BE JUDGED AND THEIR SECRETS WILL BE EXPOSED.

AND BEFORE I GO ANY FURTHER, I THINK EVERYONE SHOULD ASK THEMSELVES HOW THAT MAKES THEM FEEL?

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT THAT DAY?

OR HAVE YOU ALREADY CONFESSED YOUR SECRETS AND BEEN SET FREE FROM THEM.

IT'S IMPORTANT WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE TWO JUDGMENTS.

THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST WHICH IS FOR BELIEVERS.

WE WILL BE REWARDED FOR THE THINGS THAT WE'VE DONE FOR THE KINGDOM.

2ND CORINTHIANS 5:10

FOR WE MUST ALL APPEAR BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST, THAT EACH ONE MAY RECEIVE THE THINGS DONE IN THE BODY, ACCORDING TO WHAT HE HAS DONE, WHETHER GOOD OR BAD.

BELIEVERS WILL NOT BE JUDGED FOR OUR SINS, THAT TOOK PLACE AT THE CROSS.

BUT OUR MOTIVES BEHIND WHY WE DID WHAT WE DID WILL BE EXPOSED.

ANYTHING THAT WE DID THAT WAS GOOD BUT DONE IN SELFISH AMBITION OR OUT OF PRIDE WILL NOT BE REWARDED.

THAT IS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE ARE CONSTANTLY SEARCHING OUR HEARTS.

WE MUST ALWAYS BE ASKING GOD TO REVEAL OUR TRUE MOTIVES AND TO ALIGN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS WITH HIS WILL.

ROMANS 12:1,2

I BESEECH^[A] YOU THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, THAT YOU PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR^[B] REASONABLE SERVICE. ² AND DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT WILL OF GOD.

ALL OF US WILL HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS, WE WILL ALL HAVE THINGS THAT WE'VE DONE FOR THE WRONG REASONS.

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS A BEAUTIFUL PROMISE FOR ALL THE THINGS THAT WE'VE DONE TO HONOR OUR SAVIOR.

REVELATION 22:12

¹² "AND BEHOLD, I AM COMING QUICKLY, AND MY REWARD IS WITH ME, TO GIVE TO EVERY ONE ACCORDING TO HIS WORK.

THAT IS PROMISE FROM JESUS HIMSELF!

SO, THAT IS THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.

THERE IS ANOTHER JUDGEMENT THOUGH.

THAT IS THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT AND THAT IS FOR ALL NON-BELIEVERS.

REVELATION 20:11-15

11 THEN I SAW A GREAT WHITE THRONE AND HIM WHO SAT ON IT, FROM WHOSE FACE THE EARTH AND THE HEAVEN FLED AWAY. AND THERE WAS FOUND NO PLACE FOR THEM. 12 AND I SAW THE DEAD, SMALL AND GREAT, STANDING BEFORE ^[C]GOD, AND BOOKS WERE OPENED. AND ANOTHER BOOK WAS OPENED, WHICH IS THE BOOK OF LIFE. AND THE DEAD WERE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS, BY THE THINGS WHICH WERE WRITTEN IN THE BOOKS. 13 THE SEA GAVE UP THE DEAD WHO WERE IN IT, AND DEATH AND HADES DELIVERED UP THE DEAD WHO WERE IN THEM. AND THEY WERE JUDGED, EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS. 14 THEN DEATH AND HADES WERE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE. THIS IS THE SECOND ^[D]DEATH. 15 AND ANYONE NOT FOUND WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE WAS CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE.

THIS MOMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN WRITTEN.

IT IS GOING TO HAPPEN.

AND IF YOU ARE HERE TODAY AND YOU HAVE HEARD THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD AND REJECT IT, THESE WILL BE THE VERY WORDS THAT CONDEMN YOU ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.

AND I DON'T SAY THAT LIGHTLY, I SAY IT WITH A SINCERE CONCERN FOR YOUR ETERNITY.

YOU ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE.

IF YOU HAVEN'T FULLY SUBMITTED TO GOD THEN TODAY COULD BE THAT DAY.

TODAY COULD BE THE DAY YOU CRY OUT TO HIM AND ASK HIM FOR FORGIVENESS.

ASK HIM TO HELP YOU WALK IN THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.

ASK HIM TO GIVE YOU A NEW HEART AND A NEW MIND.

AND IF YOU'RE HERE TODAY AND YOU ARE A BELIEVER, YOU HAVE SURRENDERED TO HIM, ASK HIM TO REVEAL THE THINGS THAT YOU NEED TO WORK ON.

ASK HIM TO HELP YOU HUMBLY SUBMIT TO HIS WILL.

PRAYER