

- I) V12-16 INTRO: For as many as have sinned without law will also perish  
The last time we were together, we saw the **earmarks of the unsaved** (V8)
- II) V8 **Self-seeking**: Their lives are earmarked by self-centeredness; selfishness  
QUOTE: Selfishness is the great **unknown** sin; no selfish person **has ever thought of himself** as selfish
- III) Russian author Leo Tolstoy: **Everybody** thinks of changing **humanity**, and nobody thinks of changing himself!
- IV) They are **disobedient**: Rebellious (Ro 8:7)  
They reject the truth found in the Bible and cling to lies (Ro 1:25)
- V) V8 They are **unrighteous**: wicked, unjust, unwilling to follow the Lord
- VI) In Ch. 1 he outlined the way they live because they reject God (Ro 1:29-32)  
This results in righteous judgment, indignation, wrath tribulation and anguish
- VII) V11 NOTICE: There is no partiality with God (He is not a respecter of persons)  
God judges fairly based on the character and conduct of the person  
Col 3:25 He who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality
- VIII) No **righteous** person will go to hell, and no **unrighteous** will enter heaven  
In the end, both Jew and Gentile will be judged fairly  
The Jew is judged based on the Law, the Gentile by his conscience
- IX) V12 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish  
Gentiles who never knew of God's law will be judged fairly
- X) They have ways to know of a God, and are accountable for what they know  
Not knowing the Law they will receive fair judgment based on what they knew
- XI) Jews and Gentiles who knew of the Law will receive stricter judgment  
God takes into account the amount of spiritual light people have  
The Jews, because they have the Law, have a stricter accountability
- I) The Jew has a standard that applies to him: the Law of Moses

Just hearing the Law does not exonerate him of guilt  
He is still judged according to his knowledge and faith revealed in obedience

- II) The Gentile does not have the Law, but does have a conscience  
They do not have Moses' law, but do have moral principles they adhere to  
Their failure to live up to such principles reveals **they are worthy** of judgment
- III) V13 for not the **hearers of the law** are just in the sight of God but **the doers**  
Just because they are aware of the law doesn't exempt them from judgment  
Hearers of the law are not saved: It is the doers who are  
Jas 1:22 But be **doers of the word**, and not **hearers only** deceiving yourselves
- IV) One of the purposes of the law is to bring us to faith in Jesus  
Gal 3:24-25 So the law was put in charge **to lead us to Christ** that we might be justified **by faith**. Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.
- V) V14 For when Gentiles who do not have the law **by nature do** the things  
**By nature** speaks of doing something on their own, without coercion  
They do these things through the prompting of their own consciences
- VI) In some ways they live according to certain laws, including some commands  
They may honor their parents, not murder, remain faithful to spouses, not steal, not bear false witness or covet other people's things  
These are things that people, even to this day, may see as moral values
- VII) To the Jews, these are **commands** but to Gentiles, they are a **good way to live**  
They are a law to themselves, meaning they have adopted this **code of life**
- VIII) V15 who show the work of the law **written in their hearts** their conscience  
God wrote the commands on stones, and He also wrote on their hearts  
He has given them moral instincts, and they can live by them
- IX) These moral instincts can be looked at as their consciences  
The fact that they violate their own moral consciences condemns them
- I) Are Gentiles exempt from eternal punishment because they don't have the Law  
No, he has already dealt with this: They have conscience and creation

Their consciences and conduct work together to **condemn them**

- II) Good gentiles condemn themselves by the doing of what is good  
How can such a thing be true
- III) By doing good they reveal God's law written on their hearts  
Because of this, they **condemn themselves**  
This is because they do not live up to what they know and believe is true
- IV) When they are accused by their consciences they need to turn to Christ  
If they do not, they end up hardening against Him  
1 Ti 4:2 having their own conscience **seared** with a hot iron
- V) V16 In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by **Jesus Christ**  
Our hearts **hidden secrets** are revealed as God righteously examines us  
Ps 90:8 You have set our iniquities before you, our **secret sins** in the light of your presence.  
Jer 17:10 I, the LORD, **search the heart**, I test the mind, Even **to give every man according to his ways**, According to the fruit of his doings.
- VI) Our hearts and motives are revealed by the gospel:  
Jesus is the ultimate Judge  
Jn 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.
- VII) This is why we, as believers pray that God will renew our hearts  
Ps 51:10 Create in me a clean heart O God and renew a right spirit within me
- VIII) V17 You are called a Jew and rest on the law and make your boast in God  
Even as Gentiles stand condemned, so do **outwardly** moral Jews
- IX) He now begins to enumerate what they would consider advantages  
**First**: They prided themselves on being descendants of Abraham (Gen 12:3)
- I) Many had come to believe that salvation for them was an automatic  
Because they were Jewish, they thought they would enter paradise

**Mt 3:7-9** When (John) saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said to them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits demonstrating repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham as our father: for I say to you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

II) **V17 Second:** And rest (rely) on the Law (the entirety of His revelation)

The Jews were blessed with the word of God

Ps. 147:19-20 He shows **His word** to Jacob, His statutes and His judgments to Israel. He has not dealt so with any nation: and as for His judgments, **they have not known them.** Praise the Lord

III) They thought they were secure in the law: In this they were wrong

Jn 5:45-47 Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you--Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

IV) **Third:** And make your boast in God, as those who have His special favor

Dt 4:7 **What other nation** is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? (Ex 19:5-6)

V) They failed to understand that God has shown special favor to them

It wasn't because of their greatness, but because of His faithfulness

Dt 7:7-8 The LORD did not set His affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than the other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But because the LORD loved you and kept the oath He swore to your fathers, He brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt

VI) **QUOTE:** Israel is a special treasure to God. He has showered Jacob's descendants with unparalleled blessings because of Abraham's faith. God intended Israel to be the right example to the rest of the world so the other nations would want to follow God

I) When they boasted **in God**, they were boasting in themselves

They were thinking themselves special, in their own right

Quote: Spiritual pride is the most dangerous of all kinds of pride

- II) V18 And **know His will**, and approve the things that are excellent being  
They knew His **will** (commands) because it was found in the bible
- III) V18 and approve the things that are excellent being instructed out of the law  
In knowing His will, you have approved (tested; discerned) excellent things  
**Intellectually**, you have seen and agreed with God's revelation
- IV) They **knew truth** but didn't obey and their knowledge will be used against them  
Jn 5:39-40 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them  
you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you  
refuse to come to me to have life.
- V) They knew enough to know what was right and wrong, and agreed  
This produced **even more** to be accountable for
- VI) V19-20 And are confident that you yourself are a **guide** to the blind **a light** to  
A guide to the blind: you are an instructor to the spiritually ignorant  
This would be a reference to the Gentiles, who lived in darkness
- VII) You think you are a guide to the blind but you yourselves **do not see**  
Mt 23:24 Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!
- VIII) V19 **A light** to those in darkness: This is what Israel was to be to the world  
Is 42:6 I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, **As a light** to  
the Gentiles
- IX) **Light**: knowledge, instruction and true religion: This was fulfilled in Jesus  
Jn 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "**I am the light of the  
world**. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of  
life."
- X) Instead of being a light, you yourselves stumble in the dark
- I) V20 You are confident that you are an instructor of the foolish  
The **foolish** would speak of the Gentiles, who did not know God  
You should instruct, but instead you need to be instructed

- II) V20 A teacher of babes having the form of knowledge and truth in the Law  
Babes would speak of the uninstructed, like children who have yet to learn  
Again, this could apply to the Gentiles, who did not know God
- III) You think you are a teacher bringing maturity to the immature: But you are lost  
Having a form (sketch, shadow, outline) of knowledge and truth in the law  
You have an outer knowledge, but not **an inner knowledge** of God's law
- IV) V21 You therefore who teach another do you not teach yourself You who  
If you know all of this, why don't you do it?
- V) V21 You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal  
Mt 23:14 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour  
widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive  
greater condemnation.  
Do you practice what you preach?
- VI) V22 You who say Do not commit adultery, do you commit adultery  
Commentators say that this sin was fairly common at this time  
Mt 12:39 He answered, A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign!  
But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.
- VII) V22 You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?  
Idolatry was forbidden, but do you plunder temples  
Ac 19:37 You have brought these men here, though they have neither robbed  
temples nor blasphemed our goddess.
- VIII) This could refer to them invading pagan temples and taking valuables
- IX) V23-24 You who make your boast in the law do **you dishonor God** through  
When those who claim to know God are openly sinful, His name is reduced
- I) The way some professing believers act, it would be better not to mention Him  
2 Ti 2:19 Let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.
- II) V25-29 For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law  
Sinfulness is passed from generation to generation

## Circumcision illustrates new nature

III) True circumcision is not the cutting away of flesh because it is of the heart

Dt 30:6 The LORD your God will **circumcise your heart**, and the heart of your seed, to love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, that you may live.

IV) V28-29 For he is not a Jew who is one **outwardly** nor is that circumcision which Physical circumcision does not save

V) What saves is **faith in God** through Jesus

Ro 4:1-3 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "**Abraham believed** God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."