Sermon Highlights

The Law Written on Every Heart: God's Impartial Standard for All People

Summary:

Drawing from Romans 2:12-16, this sermon establishes that God judges all people impartially, whether Jew or Gentile, according to the light and moral knowledge available to them. Pastor Bruce Gordon explains that the law of God, like a speed limit sign, has no power in itself but derives its authority from the lawgiver behind it. True justification before God belongs not to those who merely hear the law but to those who do it, and this doing flows from genuine salvation rather than human effort. Even Gentiles who never possessed the written Mosaic law had access to an innate moral conscience that, when followed sincerely, pointed them toward a lawgiver and ultimately toward God. The sermon emphasizes that before anyone can receive the gospel, they must first recognize their own sinfulness and inability to redeem themselves, and it closes by affirming that salvation through Christ is available to all, Jew and Gentile alike, without the burden of additional religious requirements.

Key Points:

- God shows no partiality in judgment; all people, regardless of background or religious heritage, stand on equal ground before Him

- The law of God, like a speed limit sign, is a declaration of right and wrong but derives its power and authority from the lawgiver behind it, namely God Himself

- Justification belongs to doers of the law, not merely hearers; genuine salvation produces obedience rather than demanding obedience as a condition of salvation

- All people, including Gentiles who never received the Mosaic law, possess an innate moral conscience that points to the existence of a moral lawgiver

- Gentiles who, by conscience and sincere searching, lived according to the moral light available to them were accounted by God as doing what the law required

- A person must first recognize their sinfulness and inability to save themselves before they can genuinely receive and believe the gospel

- Salvation is available to all people; Gentiles are not required to take on Jewish religious laws and rituals in order to be made right with God

- God will one day judge the secrets of all people through Jesus Christ, which is the ultimate authority behind the moral law

Scripture Reference:

- Romans 2:12-16, which addresses how God judges both those outside the law and those under the law, and describes the moral law written on the hearts of the Gentiles, with conscience bearing witness

Stories:

- The Speed Limit Sign: Pastor Bruce Gordon uses the illustration of driving past a speed limit sign to explain the nature and authority of law. The sign itself has no power to enforce compliance; its authority comes from the governmental body that established the law and the officers who enforce it. Just as a driver cannot argue his way out of a speeding ticket by claiming he disagreed with the speed limit, no person can stand before God and dismiss His moral law on the grounds of personal preference. This analogy is used to explain how the Ten Commandments function as a declaration of God's moral standard, with the government of God standing behind them as the source of their authority and consequence.