

God is Fair

Romans 2:11-16 ¹¹ For God shows no partiality. ¹² For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. 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. 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. 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 ¹⁶ on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

❖ Reminder:

- **Paul is in the process of laying out an argument that there is not one person...**
 - To have ever lived... besides Jesus, that is not guilty of sinning against God
 - Therefore... all men stand guilty before God
- **Paul is also trying to convince His readers that they must run to the gospel...**
 - The gospel is the central theme of the book and of God's plan of salvation

❖ Recap

- **Chapter 1: The Gospel is Offered... because...**
 - God's Wrath is being revealed from heaven...
 - Against what? The ungodliness and unrighteous behavior of man...
 - Of whom we are a part
- **Chapter 2 everyone who judges has no excuse...**
 - Anyone that judges that something is right or wrong...
 - Has immediately condemned their own self...
 - Why? Because they have done the same kinds of things...
 - Although your sin may look different that others...
 - It is the same kind of thing
- **We learned we should not presume on God's kindness...**
 - His kindness is meant to lead us to repentance
 - Hard hearts lead to the judgment of God...
 - We also learned how to evaluate what kind of heart we have
- **God will render judgment...**
 - And his judgment will be in accord with works...
 - Notice... they are in accord with works...
 - They are not based on works...
- **Eternal life is not given because I was a good person...**
 - But eternal life is given in accord with the good works of the person...
 - And the reason being... is because true saving faith...
 - And faith is what brings about salvation to all men who are saved...
 - Faith creates good works...
- **Notice...we see wrath will come to those who are self seeking and do not obey the truth**
 - Those evil works will indeed be the basis for eternal destruction

❖ 6 Summary statements... And 3 Questions We Need to Ask and Answer

- 1) **All who have sinned will be judged according to the law they have.**
 - **?What is the "law" in reference to here by Paul?**
 - **?How is it that every kind of person is judged guilty by God?**

- 2) **It is not the hearers of the law that are righteous before God**
- 3) **It is the doers of the law who will be justified**
 - **?What does it mean to be a doer of the law?**
- 4) **God Will Judge the Secrets of Men by Christ Jesus**
- 5) **God is not partial in judgment**
- 6) **All Peoples Will Stand Before God**
- **Application: Are We Doers or Hearers only?**

❖ **One More Thing:** There is something else that stands out here...

- It is shouting from the words...
- Although the statement is not made word for word... I think...
- It is loud and clear... There is something at stake...
- Getting Right With God... Am I Right With God... Am I in good standing with my Maker...
- Where do I stand when it comes to God's thoughts on me...
- Ask yourself these very serious questions this morning...

❖ **Where do I Stand With God?**

❖ **1) All who have sinned will be judged according to the law they have.**

- We will not spend a lot of time on this point...
- **Paul is making the point that God is fair...**
 - and He would judge according to the law a person has been given
 - this is what He is saying here in vs 12
 - **¹²For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.**
- **There are essentially two kinds of people at that time in the world....**
 - Remember that Paul is writing to the roman church
 - It is made up of Jewish people...
 - And gentiles (who are just all non jewish people)
- **Paul says... let's look at sin and judgment for people...**
 - He says... if you did not have the law of God... you will perish without the law...
 - If you sinned under the law, you will be judged by the law
- **?What is the "law" in reference to here by Paul?**
 - **The law is in reference to the Mosaic law...**
 - **It is those set of laws given to the people of Israel by God through Moses**
 - **Genesis – Deuteronomy**
 - **I would think you could honestly just insert the 10 commandments here...**
 - **The summary of the law is wrapped up in the Ten Commandments**
 - **The summary of the ten commandments is wrapped up in the greatest command**
 - **Jesus says the greatest command is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind.**
- **What is in mind: The standard God will use in judging people**
 - 1 Group had a bunch of laws... and that will what they are held to in judgment
- **1 Group... those who do not have the law...**
 - they will perish without the law... Meaning...
 - their judgment from God will not depend on the law of God given to Israel
 - Their standard will not be the law that Moses gave Israel...
 - God does not need that standard to judge them as guilty..
- **Notice: Look at how they are judged**

- 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. 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
- **Very Quickly here: Notice the Gentiles**
 - By nature they do what the law requires
 - ◆ They become a law to themselves
 - The work of the law is written on their hearts
 - Their conscious bears witness
 - Thoughts accuse or excuse them...
- **IN summary... they have some sense of right and wrong**
 - They do not have the law of God written on their hearts...
 - They do have the “work” of the law written on their hearts...
 - ◆ This is the product of the law...
 - ◆ What the law is supposed to produce...
 - ◆ Even though they do not have love your neighbor written down...
 - They have in their hearts a sense of how they should treat others...
- **So, you see they are without excuse...**
 - For even when they do what is right... because they sense it is right...
 - They are making a judgment against themselves
- **?How is it that every kind of person is judged guilty by God?**
 - Because every person has within them a sense of right and wrong
 - However fallen and distorted they may be
 - God has made sure that every individual He creates
 - Is created with a conscience
 - And we know... that every person has sinned in some way...
 - Going against what they know they ought to do
 - So... every kind of person will be judged as guilty before God

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❖ 2) It is not the hearers of the law that are righteous before God

- For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God,
- **Paul gets specific about who will be right with God**
 - He says... it is not the hearers of the law...
 - **Look at what James says about this...**
 - James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.
 - **Hearers only deceive themselves**
 - They can't remember what kind of person they are
 - They forget what the law says
 - They don't put it onto action
- **Hearers:**
 - The word means: Someone who listens...
 - I think the sense of the word even means they listen attentively
 - They are really listening
 - But... that is where it stops

- They just hear...
- **We All Know people like this:**
 - We have all been just like this...
 - Here is how it goes... Someone is given some good counsel some words of wisdom
 - ◆ Save up your money... put away 10%
 - They hear you, they listen but they never do...
 - Then they don't have the money they need in an emergency
 - ◆ Hey... don't waste your money on something you really don't need...
 - Use it on something useful... they hear you but do something different
 - ◆ Probably not a good idea to do this or that.... And here is why...
 - As a matter of fact... ill give you 10 reasons why it is not a good idea...
 - They hear you... but they do what they want...
- **Hearers only Hear.... They do not do...**
 - Paul is saying... you wont be declared righteous for just hearing...
- **Be righteous:** see that little phrase in the text...
 - That is what you need to enter into heaven... righteousness...
 - And Paul is saying... you can't get righteous just because you go to church....
 - All these Sundays many of us have come in here to church will be of no use...
 - ◆ You will have wasted your time...
- **Listen to Me:**
 - You might as well not even come to church if all your gonna do is listen
 - If you are not going to act... stay home... because
 - you are heaping more judgment upon yourself when God stirs your heart to action
- We need to be more than hearers... we must be doers... people of action

❖ **3) It is the doers of the law who will be justified**

- **but the doers of the law who will be justified.**
- **This verse says it very plainly....**
 - Those who do what the law says... they will be justified...
 - We have already seen that hearers only will not be righteous...
 - Rather it is the doers who will be justified...
- **Justified... means declared righteous...**
 - So... Paul has the same thought in mind here...
 - He says... if you want to have right standing before God on the Day of Judgment
 - You better be a doer of the law...
- **PROBLEMS PROBLEMS PROBLEMS...**
 - There are a lot of issues b/w commentators and preachers over this verse...
 - **Why?** A couple reasons...
 - **1) Some Say:** This would teach works based salvation... the doer is justified
 - **2) Some say...** a doer of the law is one who is perfect
 - But there is no one that is perfect... so this is impossible...
 - And Paul is just making a point that this is what it takes to be right before God
 - But since no one is perfect... all are guilty...
 - ◆ Now... that is true... no one is perfect... everyone is guilty before God...
 - **So... they make the argument that paul is being hypothetical...**
 - If they could do the law they would be justified...
 - Or... doers of the law WOULD be justified... if there were any...
- **But... I agree with those who think it is not hypothetical...**
 - Yet I still maintain my **WHOLE HEARTED DEVOTION** to the Doctrine:

- We are saved by faith and not by works...
- How can I do this...
- **Let's look at what it means to be a doer of the law....**
 - ◆ Paul never says... it is the sinlessly perfect person who is justified
 - ◆ He never says it is the person that has kept every single bit of the law...
 - At all times
- **?What does it mean to be a doer of the law?**
 - One commentator/preacher says it this way...
 - **A Doer of the law is one who:**
 - Loves God – loves the law – recognizes sin – hates his sin – confesses his sin – falls before the mercy of God
 - ◆ Or in summary
 - 1) Loves God
 - 2) Depends on God to live the law
 - 3) Trusts in God when they stumble
 - **He gives us two really good biblical examples:**
 - **The parents of John the Baptist**
 - ◆ Luke 1:5-6 "In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord."
 - You think they were perfect? We know from the story that Zacharias didn't fully believe... so his mouth is shut up till the child is born
 - But they were both righteous in the sight of God...
 - Because they ran to the provision of God in sacrifice for their failings
 - **Psalm 34**
 - ◆ Psalm 34:1-2 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
 - **This makes perfect sense...**
 - **Because...** the law never expected anyone to be perfect...
 - ◆ The law set the standard didn't it?
 - ◆ **The law said... Be Holy For God is Holy...**
 - But... here is what you do when you do not keep the law...
 - Back then... they offered sacrifices...
 - Yet, that person would still be considered a doer of the law right?
 - Even though they were not perfect...
 - **Today:** We run to Jesus when we are not perfect...
 - ◆ Initially we run to Him for salvation and the removal of our sins...
 - ◆ And then, every time we sin after knowing Jesus
 - ◆ We run back to Him because His blood has covered our sins...
 - **Doing the law is continuing in repentance believing and trusting in Jesus Christ**
 - **Doing the Law is trusting in Jesus**
- **So... Paul is saying... You must be a doer of the law... not a hearer only**
 - If you want to be right with God...
- **James makes it clear in his letter...**
 - Faith without works is no faith....
 - You can not have works unless you have faith...

- **It is actually a very simply teaching...**
 - ◆ Even a child could get it...
 - **If I said... There is a big canyon between two cliffs...**
 - ◆ And there is a rope bridge running between the two...
 - ◆ And it doesn't look to sturdy... it is creeky and old...
 - **And I have a group of people that I am leading on a journey**
 - ◆ We get to the bridge... and as their guide I say:
 - The bridge is safe for crossing... I am certain of it...
 - And everyone hears me...
 - And... some do not believe me... but many say they do...
 - **So the ones that do not believe just turn back...**
 - ◆ But those who say they believe... stand their ready to cross
 - ◆ And some cross... but others just sit and watch... and they never cross...
 - **Which ones really believed?**
 - The ones who crossed...
 - **THAT IS THE PRINCIPLE IN SCRIPTURE**

❖ 4) God Will Judge the Secrets of Men by Christ Jesus

- **¹⁶on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.**
- There is A Day Coming.... That Day... That Great and Terrible Day
- **Trivialize it all you want...**
 - Ignore it today at your own peril...
- **Jesus has been given judgment from God...**
 - Because He came to the earth to become a man...
 - God has given all judgment to the Son...
- **What will be judged? The secrets of men...**
 - OY! This is going to be a difficult day for many of us...
 - I do not know how all of this is going to go down... but it wont be pretty...
 - **Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.**
- **Let me just go ahead and let you know now...**
 - I am TOO embarrassed to share all of my secret sins with you today...
 - But I will admit I have been filled with sin many days of my life...
 - My thoughts have no always been on God and His ways...
 - My ways have not always been right before God...
 - If I were to get what I deserve... I would get hell a thousand times over...
 - **I have heard God's word thousands of times**
 - I have preached God's Word a thousand times...
 - And I have sinned against God's word thousands of times...
 - That is me... So I know better...
 - And honestly... It does no good to put up a false show and act like I am super holy guy
 - God knows, and God will judge me accordingly...
- **That is me... what about you?**
- **And after we look deep into our own souls and consider our thoughts...**
 - Our intentions... our actions...
 - Do we have any right to judge or condemn anyone else?
- **There is a day of judgment coming....**
 - And on that day... God will be fair

❖ 5) God is not partial in judgment

- **For God shows no partiality**
- **God shows no partiality means... God will not receive face...**
 - It means God does not look to see who the person is...
 - **In a human sense... judges and lawyers and people...**
 - Generally tend to be more gracious in their judgments...
 - ◆ If they are friends with the person...
 - ◆ Or they know the family...
 - You are going to show more mercy to your close friends that wrong you
 - ◆ That you will if a person you do not know wrongs you...
 - The world often overlooks the behavior of people who have a lot of money...
 - **Because... the world wants to benefit from those people...**
- **But God needs nothing from no man... and He does not care who we are**
 - God cares what we believe... and therefore what we have done through believing
 - Young or old, rich or poor, white or black or hispanic, Jew or Greek
 - God does not care one iota where a person was born when He judges...
- **God shows no partiality...**
 - The sons of Israel will be treated the same as the sons of the duggars
 - Or your children and my children...
- **To me... this is good news...**
 - To others... who have amasses fortunes or made names for themselves...
 - There is a day coming when their money or name will mean nothing...
- **God shows no partiality...**

❖ 6) All Peoples Will Stand Before God

- **For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God**
- **“Before God”**
 - In the end... this is where we will all come... Before God...
 - I want you to sense the weight of this...
 - We will come before God...
- **All people have will have had their chance to live their life...**
 - At the end of a persons days... they have a court date...
 - A reckoning... they will stand before the Judge...
 - Jesus will be the Judge...
- **When I stand before God... I will have only one thing...**
 - Jesus... I will be at the mercy of Jesus...
 - He will judge me and know if my trust in Him was real...
 - And if my trust in Jesus was real....
 - The works I did in His name will be enough...
 - His blood will cover over all of my many many sins...
- **We must stand before God...**
 - **Romans 14:10-12 For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall give praise to God.” So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.**

❖ Application: Are We Doers or Hearers only?

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❖ Where Do I Stand With God?

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❖ **The Greatness of the Gospel**

➤ It is great, not because it sounds good... or we named some music after it...

➤ It is great because it helps us stand before God on judgment day...

▪ In a right standing with Him

❖ **Invitation**

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