

The Book of Romans - Part 11

Have you ever stopped to think what a privilege it is to be able to study God's Word, not only privately in our homes, but also the way we're doing it here on the radio. So many people throughout the world don't have this opportunity, and we take this for granted. Let's take time to pray for those individuals who do not have this privilege at looking at God's Word. You know, some people are hiding out today, studying and reading and praying and talking to the Lord, and some are putting their lives on the line saying they are Christians. And what a privilege it is, and what we have in this country we take for granted. And we'd better quit taking it for granted, and we need to pray that God would have His way in the hearts of those people who are leading this country. May they lead us in the paths of righteousness, and those paths of righteousness come only through God, only through Jesus Christ.

Today, we're going to pick up our study in the book of Romans, and we're going to start with Romans 2:16. What I want you to look at today and understand is that to know the law of God or not to know the law of God does not excuse a person from knowing the God of the law. There is no excuse. In verse 16 of Romans 2, it says, *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.*

"In the day"... verse 5 speaks of the day. It says, *But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.*

The principle of judgment number eleven as we look at it here is there is nothing hidden or kept secret from the Judge. Remember, we've already seen that God knows everything. And

verse 16 is actually continued from verse 12 where it says, *For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law.* Judgment.

Secondly, I would have you notice that the day when God will judge the secrets of men it talks about there is the final day of judgment for the ungodly. It's also described in II Peter 3:7. It says, *But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.* We've read that before.

Number three, *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men....* These are the hidden things. Man tries to hide his sin, but God sees everything. And we see there that secrets will be revealed. And Hebrews 4:12-13 says this: *¹²For the word of God is quick, and powerful... And we've read this before, and you've read it many times. It's quick, and powerful and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*

Remember, when Adam sinned, he hid himself from God in the garden. God knew where he was though, but Adam was hiding because of sin. And so many people today are hiding because of sin. They think they're hiding from God, but God knows where they are and God knows where you are today. In Matthew 10:26, it says, ***Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that***

shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. God knows everything.

Notice the principle of judgment number twelve here. Jesus Christ will be the final Judge before Whom all men shall stand, and we've seen this before. Judged by Whom? Verse 16 says by Jesus Christ, the One.

Man and woman have refused Jesus down through the ages. The final Judge of men will be none other than Jesus Christ Himself. God the Father has committed all judgment to His Son, just as He is the Judge, He is also the One Who wants to save those people are without Him today, those people who need to ask Him into their hearts. John 5:22 says, *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.* John 5:27 says, *And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.* Jesus Christ, the Savior, will be the Judge.

Secondly about this verse is Paul says judged "according to my gospel." The Gospel which Paul preached included the judgment of God. The Gospel is not presented correctly if nothing is said about the judgment of God. We also say, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved," but what about those people who do not believe on the Lord Jesus Christ? What happens to them? The Bible says that Jesus is going to say, "Depart from me ye workers of iniquity. I never knew you." And they're cast into the lake of fire, which is prepared for the devil and his angels.

Notice verse 17 of Romans 2 now. *Behold, thou art called a Jew, and restest in the law, and makest thy boast of God.* Now, here, Paul is dealing with the Jew... or the religious man. Paul's purpose in the early chapters of Romans is to show that all men are condemned and in need of a Savior. You can

see Romans 3:9, 19, and 23. In fact, let's read those verses.

Romans 3:9 says, *What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin.*

Romans 3:19 says, *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*

Romans 3:23 says, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

And as we look in verse 17 in this section, Paul will demonstrate that the religious Jew is condemned. Religious. Note this, that religious people are often self-righteous, and generally, it is very difficult to convince them that they are condemned and guilty before God.

The third thing about this verse is that the keyword, as we see in verses following, is "the law." That's the keyword. The Jews, in contrast to the Gentiles, possessed God's written law, and since the Jews are accountable for what they have been given, the Jews will be judged by this law. Romans 2:12 says, *For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law.*

And then Paul's already told them it's not enough just to possess the law and hear the law, but they are to be doers of the law, according to Romans 2:13. And note in this verse and verse 17, "called a Jew." These people took great pride in the fact that they were children of Abraham. You can see this in Matthew 3:9 and John 8:33 and 39.

Matthew 3:9 says, *And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.*

John 8:33, *They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*

Jesus says, "Come unto Me." He says, "I will set you free," and this offended the Jew because, when you get down to it, the Jew actually thought that they were better than God. There are so many people today who are not even Jews who think they're better than God. Let me clue you in on something. God is God. You do not make fun of God and you do not exalt yourself above God and get away with it. Judgment is coming.

Paul goes on to say in this verse "restand in the law." Relying on the law, resting comfortably. That's not good enough. And Paul's job in this section is to disturb their rest. He's going to pull the comfortable bed out from under them.

And notice number six here that they boasted. "Since we are Jews, we're better than everyone else," was their attitude. "We're God's chosen people." The boast of God, "We worship the one and only true God, whereas all the other nations worship false gods and idols." They rested upon that, but some seemed to think that being a Jew would guarantee them a place in Heaven. But it's obvious from God's Word that being a Jew does not make a person just before God. Being a Jew externally is one thing, being a Jew physically and racially, but being a true Jew spiritually and internally is something else entirely.

Romans 2:18: *And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law.*

Notice the word "and." First, "And knowest his will...." It's one thing to know God's will but it is quite another thing to do God's will. Doing God's Word is equivalent to doing God's will. The Jews had God's Word and, thus, they knew His will. And in verses like Luke 8:21 and Matthew 12:50, it's where we see that doing God's Word is equivalent to doing God's will.

Notice secondly about verse 18, "approves the things that are more excellent," or superior.

"Knowest His will...." It is one thing to know what is right and it is another thing to do what is right. The Jews had a keen sense of moral discernment. They could clearly discern what was right and what was wrong. And note this, that believers need to have good discernment.

Look in Philippians 1:9-10; it says, ⁹*And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;* ¹⁰*That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.* "The day of Christ...." That means the Christian needs to make right discernment, live right, do what God wants you to do.

And number three about this verse, "being instructed," or taught, "out of the law." Having God's holy law does not make a person holy. Just because you read the Bible doesn't make you saved and on your way to Heaven.

Number four, having God's righteousness and His righteous commandments does not make a person righteous. The key question in the book of Romans is this: How can a person be

righteous before a holy God? It's not by works of the law, according to Romans 3:20.

Now, notice this, and we'll stop here. Romans 2:19-20. If you would, read these verses and we'll pick up here next time as we study the book of Romans.

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