

Title: God will judge the Secrets of Men

Text: Romans 2:12-16

Romans chapter 2 verse 12 reading to Vs 16.....

(Read Romans 2:12-16)

Prayer

(1B) We are talking about the first major principle of the righteousness of God which is CONDEMNATION. Why are all people condemned? Why does the Bible teach that? Why does the Bible say that all are without excuse?

(1C) We looked, first of all, at ungodly men which was chapter 1:18-32. People who do not recognize the God of creation. And through unchecked sexual desires they have corrupted themselves to the point that God says: "they are worthy of death and worthy of his judgement." "And they are without excuse."

(2C) Then in chapter 2, least he leave out some group of people, Paul moves into the area of self-righteous people. People who seemly are not like the ~~ungodly~~ ungodly of the world. At least from external observation. But they are just as guilty. And Paul begins chapter 2 verse 1 saying that they are also without excuse. Just like the ungodly, healthen person who appears to be so.

(1D) We have ~~learned~~ learned that the self-rightous person is condmened also. And ~~there are~~ <sup>there are</sup> two basic reasons from Romans 2. The first of which we studied last week. Which is basical because according to Verse 1-11 of chapter 2 their judgment of the ungodly. The best way to recognize self-righthousness is...if you think that there are folks who are not as good as your are, or there are folks who are worse than you are.

Is there somebody in your mind that is a worse sinner than you are? That is the first indication of a self-rightousn attitude. Because you see, God doesn't just deal with outward deeds.

Oh, we can go along and program ourselves so that we don't commit certain deeds that some people do. But God says that every body is exactly the same as everybody else. That the same testings and temptations happen to all of us. And that under the right condition, there isn't a one of us who couldn't commit the worse of sins, ~~which is~~ imagable. That is what the Bible says we are like. It is not a pleasant picture.

But in Chapter 2 the Apostle Paul is telling us about himself. And I am going to show you in a moment why.

(2D) So, let's look at the second reason. The second reason as to why all the self-righteous people in the world are condemned. (Vs 12-16) Not only because they judge the ungodly; but also because of their ignorance of god's judgment.

We make the statement: "ignorance is no excuse of the law". And that is true. And boy is that true in God's method of judgement. And Paul demonstrates this principle in three areas.

(1E) In Verses 12+13, he demonstrates this as to the practice of the law.

According to Vs 12, there is a strange paradox here, that everyone who sins without any knowledge of the law is going to perish without the law. And everyone who sins in the law, you know what you should do, you have the law and you know what to do, you are going to be judged by that same law that you violated.

But notice...whether you have law or you don't have the law, everyone is being judged. And the question is WHY?...Why is God holding this person accountable for the law that he doesn't even know? Is there something else to man that makes him accountable besides the facts of the law?....

Did you know that in every ancient culture there is a moral law code? Certain liberal scholars who know that have sort-of felt that Moses gathered all these codes together and formed a little summary of all the law codes of the ancient world. Then we came out with the Bible's code.

That ignores a couple of basic facts. One of which is that many of these cultures do not exchange these law codes. And the second of which is that according to the Bible there is a law code written into the heart of

every person. You have a law code written into your heart.

2A Now, you might just ~~that~~ ~~it~~ take that tablet out-off your heart right now, and start looking at it. Because that is the second thing that we doitce they are ignorant off in terms of the judgement of God. And that is the presence of conscience. Not only in terms of the practice of the law. No matter of if you got law or you don't. Everybody is being judged, according to the Bible. And then the presence of conseience according to Vs 14 and 15. It says "For when Gentiles who do hat have the law do instinctively the things of the law, these, not having the law, are a law to themselves."

Now the evidence of this begins with Vs 15..."in that they show the work of the law written in there hearts, their conscience bearing witness."

Does everybody have a conscience? Absolutely...

Now, some people believe that the conscience is in the soul. Some people believe that conscience is in the spirit. And after studyig all the ~~material~~ material, I have concluded that no one really knows. No one really knows whether the conscience is in the soul or in the spirit.

It is not in the body, obviously. As a matter of ~~the~~ fact the Bible tells us that none of us can really separate the soul and the spirit.

Now, I know certain facts about the soul from the Bible. And I know certain facts about the spirit. But according to Hebrews 4:12 it is only the word, itself, that can pierce to the seperation point of the soul and ~~spirit~~ spirit. And the Word is the evaluator of the thoughts and motives of our hearts. Only the Word of God can do that.

So, all of our suggles to find out what is soul and what is spirit is really fruitless. We should let God's Word do the work. Because it will decide and it will show what is soul and what is spirit.

Now, whether the soul or spirit is conscience is not the point. The point is that you do have a conscience.....And God says that it is law written in your heart.

Suppose no one every told you about the 10 commandments. And you say, "welll, I am not responsibly for something God has not told me about."

Oh, yes you are...God wrote a little set of 10 commandments in your conscience.

Now, people can go on sinning and violating what their conscience tells them to do. Have you ever heard the little statement: "LET YOUR CONSCIENCE BE YOUR GUIDE.".....Now, you know that is true!.....The trouble is that that is not what we mean when we use it. You see, if I let my conscience be my guide, I wouldn't be doing that which I said my conscience led me to do. People are using it for an excuse, you see...What they mean is, that my conscience told me that there was something wrong with it, but I thought in my free will of a thousand reasons why it was O.K. for me to do it.

So, when I did it and somebody ask me why! my answer was "Well, let your conscience be your guide.".....

You know, how self-centered we are as human beings. God says that conscience is in you and the presence of conscience is a reason why all people will be judged. Whether they are self-righteous, or, they are obviously ungodly. There is a conscience in the heart of everyone of us.

And the effect of this conscience is clearly expressed in Vs 15. Paul talks these words right out-off the Roman law courts. He says: "their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them."

Your conscience is like a court room. And there is a prosecution attorney and a defense attorney. They are both in the same court room. And guess who is the jury? YOU, YOURSELF. You are the whole ball of wax. It is right there in the room. Big court room right in your brain. And the conscience is there. And it prosecutes and it defends your thoughts.

You see, conscience deals with thoughts not deeds. The big problem with a self-righteous man is that He assumes that if he does not do certain bad deeds that somehow he is better than a person who does do bad deeds. He has it in his mind that when he faces God, God is going to ask him: "DID YOU EVER COMMIT MURDER? .....No sir, I never committed a murder in my life.... WONDERFUL....we will let you into heaven.

That is what a self-righteous person believes...He wouldn't put it that way. But that is what he believes....

I know, I have talked to many of them. And so have you. But you see, you are unaware (The Bible says ignorant) unaware, you don't really know how God judges you.

(3~~6~~) And that is the third thing in Vs 16. The purpose of God in judgment is to get to the secret. According to Vs 15 "on the day when God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus, according to my gospel."

It is not just the outward deeds. God knows what we are really like inside. He knows the secrets, the motives, the thoughts of our hearts.

Let me give you an example from the sermon on the mount in the case of murder. A fellow goes through his whole life and never commits an act of murder. He never outwardly kills anybody. So, he assumes that when he gets before God, God cannot judge him for murder....

But Jesus said that if you hate in your heart you have committed murder.

So, you see, even though you were not an external murder. Yet, if you have hated in your heart towards another person, you have committed murder. Do you understand. You thought you were self-righteous. You thought you were better than the person who committed the outward act of murder. But, the Bible says you are not. No better. None of us are.... Because you see, God will judge according to the secrets and motives of the heart.

Well, you turn, please to I Corinthians chapter 4 verse 5. Many people have said that your character is what you are in the dark. That is true. ~~No~~ When no body else knows.

It is not simply that you get caught. God knows what goes on in your heart. We think our parents don't know, our friends don't know; and therefore it is O.K. But God knows. And God is not judging outward deeds; and on the bases of whether or not we got caught in this world and in this society. God judges secrets.

I Corinthians 4:5 says "Therefore, do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God."

The point is that we have been praising ourselves long enough. Finally, we will praise God when we see how he judges. Because we will one day discover what we really are. We are not simply what everyone sees. ~~Husbands~~ Husbands and wives can be fooled about one another and yet they can live with each other all their lives.

But, you see, God really knows. You say, "Well, I know!" No, you really don't know, either.

You know, for a long time I could get that through my brain. I wondered why folks couldn't accept that fact. Well, God showed me why. And the answer is found in Jeremiah 17. It says that the heart is so deceitful and so desperately wicked that no one can know it. So, all of this introspection to find out what you and I are like is a waste of time. God says "it is I the Lord who searches the reins of the heart." The only one who really knows what we are like is God. And most of us don't like what we read about ourselves. God says we are desperately wicked. There isn't a person on earth who is better than another person. Everybody is in the same boat. We are all capable of a violence of sin.

And it is the beginning of self-righteousness when we assume that we are better than someone else. We are sinners. I am lost but by the grace of God. We are all in the same boat. And the compass to sin is within all of our hearts.

And one day God is going to reveal it. You thought it. God counted it. That is why I thank God for the forgiveness which is in Christ. And that is the beautiful thing about the Gospel. There is no condemnation to them that are in Christ.

If you are not in Christ, if you are not saved, whether you are self-righteous or ungodly, no matter what, you are accountable for what you have done, thought, believed, everything. And God knows the secrets...

Oh, friend, willn't you confess your sin and turn to Jesus. Christ is the hope of the world. He is our only hope. Willn't you confess your sin and ask Jesus to come into your life? But as many as confess him to them gave he the right to become children of God. Even ~~to~~ to those who believe on his name.

Let Jesus come into your life today....

Shall we close in prayer