

# Romans 2:11-16

## The Work of the Law

### 1. 2:9-11 - Jew and Gentile

- a. 1:18-20 - Wrath of God revealed ... all men know (by conscience, creation)
- b. 2:1-5 - God judges the judges, too. (His judgment according to truth)
- c. 2:6-10 - He judges what men do (His judgment according to deeds)
- d. 2:9-13 - Wrath or glory to every soul (His judgment does not respect persons)
- e. Jew and Gentile (religious & irreligious, churchd & nonchurchd, informed & ignorant)  
... all judged before God equally ... and are without excuse.

### 2. 2:12 - Sin and Conscience

- a. Paul's proof (all without excuse) is not an appeal to scripture here, but conscience.
- b. Conscience ~def. Natural intuitive knowledge to judge right and wrong; moral sense
  - i. Man's conscience knows this judgment is true - a guilty conscience is universal.
  - ii. Conscience can be seared/hardened - 1 Tim 4:2, Eph 4:19
  - iii. 'loss of innocence' 'moral insensitivity' 'deceiving yourself' 'you know better'
- c. "sinned without law... perish" - they are guilty, even without a law telling them - Rom 1
- d. "sinned in the law ... judged by law" - by transgression, to be guilty - Rom 2:6,8, 3:19

### 3. 2:13 - Doers Not Hearers or Death to Hypocrites

- a. "not the hearers of the law" = Israel is not justified just because they were given the law
  - i. "but the doers" - It is not enough to hear, you must do to be justified (none are)
- b. James 1:22-24 also teaches purity of conscience. Eze 33:31-32; Mt 7:24-27, 1Jn 3:7,18
  - i. James 1:25-26- Faith comes by hearing, righteousness comes by doing
  - ii. James 2:8-10 - James encourages 12 tribes to keep doing well
  - iii. James 2:12 - "ye... shall be judged by the law of liberty" - this is Rom 2:12-13
  - iv. James 2:20-24 - James has no knowledge of faith without works (Paul's gospel)
  - v. Not doing what you hear over and over hardens the conscience.
- c. What they are hearing is not the gospel of grace, but the work of the law.

### 4. 2:14-15 - The Work of the Law

- a. How can Gentiles, who do not have the law, be condemned without the law?
- b. "do by nature" - do according to their conscience, not acc. to written laws
- c. "are a law unto themselves" - Describes laws/rules/government of conscience - Ro 13:5
- d. "the work of the law" - to justify the doers, condemn the rest - Rom 3:19, 2 Cor 3:7
- e. "written in their hearts" → again referring to God-given conscience - Rom 5:20, 7:5-9
- f. "bearing witness" - The witness here is not the scripture, but their own conscience
- g. Accusing and excusing is a testimony of knowing truth - inexcusable before God

**5. 2:16 - According to My Gospel**

- a. *"secrets of men"* - those things pertaining to the heart, conscience, God knows.
- b. *"by Jesus Christ"* - God knows all of those things - Heb 4:12-13, Mt 9:4, Rom 14:10
- c. *"according to my gospel"* - which he has not explained yet concerning grace/Christ
  - i. The gospel of Christ is what saves not what condemns.
  - ii. The last mention of it was in Rom 1:16 "every one, believeith, Jew, also Greek"
  - iii. Only Paul's gospel can make a righteous judgment of all men from Adam
  - iv. The secrets of men judged acc. to conscience/heart, not person/law/circumcise
- d. Paul preaches: All condemned (with or without law), and justification to all through faith (with or without law) - Rom 3:21-22