

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
No Difference
Romans 2:11-29

Last times...

In Ch 1:16-32

What God has revealed to man-kind (Jew and Gentile)

- Himself
- His righteousness
- the unrighteousness of man

and what God has yet to reveal

- His wrath against those holding the truth (His revelation) in unrighteousness (unbelief)

Every person has been given a revelation of God

- conscience...the awareness of God, His moral code
- creation
- the Word of God

and is accountable for it...no more, no less

And, there is no difference between those who v21-31 and those who v32!

In Ch 2:1-11

Therefore, no person is qualified to judge another person

According to the Spirit of the Law of God (SoM), we are

- forgiven murderers
- forgiven adulterers/sexual sinners

So our reaction to the sin we see should be like the humble publican,
not like the self-righteous Pharisee

We are to have the heart of our Father and the mind of Christ

- grieved, not angered, by the sin we see...within and without!
- embracing the goodness of God that leads to repentance
- seeking reconciliation of sinner to God, not condemnation

We forgiven sinners are not qualified to judge unforgiven sinners

Judgment is not given to us, it belongs solely to God

When we judge someone else, we take from God what is His alone

However, we are qualified to declare to unforgiven sinners the Way to
forgiveness and reconciliation, freely giving God's "drawing card" –
His love

This time...regarding sin and sinners, and God's Way to forgiveness and reconciliation for sinners (salvation), there is no difference between Jew and Gentile

v5-12 The holy and just God will render to every man according to his deeds (v6-10)

- glory, honor, peace, and eternal life to those who believe/obey...
are righteous
- indignation, wrath, tribulation, and anguish to those who do not believe/obey..
are unrighteous
- to the Jew first and also to the Gentile

Every sinner..."as many as have sinned", whosoever does not obey the truth...
will be judged by God, Who alone is qualified to judge

Sin: "missing the mark"
the mark = perfection
sin = anything less than perfection

Who have sinned?
All man-kind, every person

Penalty of sin: death

Ezk 18:4 Behold, all souls are Mine...the soul that sins, it shall die.

Death: separation

Is 59:2 your iniquities have separated between you and your God

For sinners who believe/obey the revelation of God given them,

(for us: the Gospel, Ch 1:16-17)

God's righteous judgment for their sins and the penalty for their sins was borne by
Jesus on the Cross and, by grace thru faith, they are judged to be innocent
and given the gift of eternal life.

Jew and Gentile...no difference

Gentiles (not given the Law) that do not believe/obey the revelation of God given
them will be judged guilty of sin (unbelief) and sentenced to remain in
death eternally, even though they were not given the Law

Jews (given the Law) that do not believe/obey the revelation of God given them
(a revelation greater than the Gentiles) will be judged guilty of sin
(unbelief) by the Law and sentenced to remain in death, eternally

Jew and Gentile...no difference

The difference is the revelation of God given them, but both are
accountable for the revelation given...no more, no less

God did not give the Jews the Law as His means of saving them from the penalty of sin (death), but rather to reveal sin in man-kind
He gave them the Law to show them, and all man-kind thru them, that they are guilty of sinning against God, worthy of death/separation, and in danger of His holy and just judgment for all eternity

Rom 3:19-20

James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all (obedience must be perfect)

Gal 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Gal 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

With a greater revelation of God comes greater accountability to God for believing/obeying/doing
Luke 12:48

v13 For the Jews who were given the Law:

Lev 18:1-5 being holy, set apart from the world and set apart unto God

James 1:22-25 be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Hearing the Law, the words of God being spoken in synagogue/church, does not make a sinner innocent of sin

It makes him aware that he is a sinner in need of forgiveness

Hearing the words of God will lead a soft-hearted sinner to do the right thing – repent/turn from sin and properly invest in the Person and work of Jesus Christ the measure of faith given them

Rom 10:17

Rom 12:3

And genuine faith, whereby a sinner is declared innocent of sin, is obedient...
does as God says, motivated by the love of God

v14-15 The Gentiles who were not given the Law have the “law” written in their hearts – a conscience, the awareness of God and His moral code

They “instinctively” know

- God is (Ch 1:19-20) and the essence of Table 1 of the Law)
- right from wrong
- justice and injustice

Ex 20:12-17...the things contained in the Law...are written on their hearts

The Royal Law (James 2:8, Lev 19:18) is written on their hearts

When the Gentiles obey that which the Creator God has written on their hearts, they are doers of the Law and are justified

v16 v12 in the appointed day of judgment when the One, True, All-knowing and All-seeing God, Who alone knows the secrets buried in the hearts of man, administers a heart exam for all man-kind

1 Sam 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Jer 17:9-10 The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, *I* try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings.

Ps 139:23-24 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if *there be any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

We can fool each other...we can even fool ourselves...but we cannot fool God!
This heart exam is not a religious “sacrament” that takes place in a confessional

I lied to the (false) priest every Saturday afternoon –

he didn’t know jack, he didn’t know me from Adam!

I am transparent and honest with the All-knowing and All-seeing God –

He knew the number of hairs on my head, He knew I was from Adam!!

The heart exam is administered by/through Jesus Christ

John 5:22-24 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all *men* should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life

i.e. Jesus Christ is that which all persons (hearts) are compared and judged

according to my

Gal 1:11-12 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

gospel

1 Cor 15:3-4

Eph 2:8-9

2 Sam 14:14b neither doth God respect *any* person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.

Therefore, there is no difference between Jew and Gentile

- both have sinned
- both have the written Law of God
- both will be judged according to their doings

Now, the Apostle Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit in this doctrinal masterpiece, turns his attention to the Jew

(singular and personal, since salvation is a singular and personal event)

who thinks there is a difference between himself/herself and Gentiles

(aka self-righteousness)

v17-20 Thou (singular “you”) called a Jew

- rest/settled in the Law of Moses
I’m ok with YHWH because I have the Law of Moses
(I don’t believe what the Gentiles call the NT is the Word of God)
- boasts of God
I am one of YHWH’s “chosen people”
I am of the seed of Abraham, I’m ok with God because I’m Jewish
Luke 18:11-ish The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men *are*, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican (sinner)

- know the will of God
revealed in the Law and the Prophets
- approve of, proud of, having received a revelation of God greater than the Gentiles
- (self-)confident that you yourself are
 - a guide to the blind (Gentiles who worshipped idols/false gods)
 - a light for those who are in darkness (having a moral superiority over the Gentiles)
 - an instructor of the foolish (teaching wisdom to the ignorant Gentiles)
 - a teacher of babes (so much more mature in spiritual matters, the things of God, than the Gentiles)
- have a form/outward appearance of
 - knowledge of OTL God
 - truth

v21-23 Heart-penetrating questions for the self-righteous Jew from God the Holy Spirit:

- You teach others but do you teach yourself...are you listening to, receiving into your own heart, your own teaching?
(Are you a hearer only and not a doer of the Word, deceiving yourself?)
- You preach to the Gentile, Do not steal (Commandment #8);
do you steal (in your heart, Commandment #10)?

The Jew is no different than the Gentile

- You say to the Gentile, Do not commit adultery (Commandment #7);
do you commit adultery (in your heart, Matt 5:27-28)?

The Jew is no different than the Gentile

- You abhor the idols of the Gentiles;
do you profane the Holy One of Israel in your heart with things of the world?

The Jew is no different than the Gentile

- You boast in having the Law of Moses;
do you dishonor God by breaking His Law (not perfect obedience)?

The Jew is no different than the Gentile
Jews are Man-kind just as Gentiles are Man-kind – sinners dead in their sin

Being Jewish does not give a Jew a “Get out of Jail Free” card
Jesus Christ is the only “Get out of Jail Free” card, for Jew and Gentile

John 3:16-17

John 5:24

John 14:6

The Gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation from eternal death to every one
that believes (Matt 16:16), to the Jew first and then the Gentile

Available to every Jew and every Gentile is the power of God to be reconciled to God
and made a new creature...a new “kind”,
transformed from Man-kind to Jesus-kind

The Jew is no different than the Gentile

- v24 The self-righteous Jew of v17-23, being no different than the Gentile but thinking they
are, has caused the name of God to be blasphemed among the Gentiles

So says the Word of God

Is 52:5b my name continually every day *is* blasphemed.

By self-righteously misrepresenting the God of AI&J (a disconnect of the heart),
By being no different than the Gentile in his doings (unbelieving disobedience),
the Jew has taken the name of the Lord their God in vain (Commandment #3)

- v25-27 (physical) Circumcision...God’s sign of His everlasting covenant with Abraham, the
father of many nations...is beneficial, an advantage, if/provided you
(self-righteous Jew) keep the Law

Sin = anything less than perfect

Obedience of the Law must, therefore, be perfect

Circumcision, being a physical seed of Abraham, cannot save a Jew from
the penalty of sin, eternal death

Physical circumcision is rendered meaningless and worthless by sin

Therefore, if the uncircumcision/Gentile keep the righteousness of the Law...love...

Matt 22:36-40...Table 1 and Table 2

James 2:8

Rom 13:10

shall his physical uncircumcision be counted as obedience and righteousness?

i.e. need NOT become a Jew and come under the Law in order to be saved!

And shall not the uncircumcision/Gentile who fulfills the Law (of Love)
judge you (self-righteous Jew) who break the Law?
Shall not a believing and obedient Gentile be the judge of an unbelieving and disobedient Jew?

They shall be your judges, and not the other way around as you so proudly think

Salvation from the penalty of sin is not a matter of race or religion, it is a matter of the heart...a heart broken and surrendered to the Person and work of Jesus Christ
The Jew is no different than the Gentile

v28-29 Jew and Gentile are Man-kind –
dead in their sin (unbelief in God's Help) and destined for eternal death
Jew and Gentile have been offered the opportunity to become Jesus-kind –
to pass from eternal death unto eternal life, forgiven of sin by grace thru faith in God's Help

God is the God of the living (Matt 22:29-32), therefore to God:

- a Jew is not
 - outward in appearance seen by man
 - circumcised of the flesh
- a Jew is
 - inward where He alone sees
 - circumcised of the heart
 - Deut 10:16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked
 - Deut 30:6 And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.
 - Jer 4:4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench *it*, because of the evil of your doings.
 - alive by the Spirit of the Law and not the letter of the Law
 - 2 Cor 3:6 hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life

- praise/boast is not of men/self but of God

1 Cor 1:29-31 no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

Application/Exhortation

v24

1 Cor 10:6, 11

We believers are new creatures in Christ...Jesus-kind

We are ambassadors of Christ

We are witnesses of the risen Lord

Our hope/certainty is resurrection from the dead unto eternal life

We have been given a message from our King – Love

The Gospel...of God, of Christ, of grace, of peace

We have been given a ministry of reconciliation

2 Cor 5:18-20 all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Yet, 2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves

Can Jesus say Luke 6:46 to us?

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Is Luke 11:35 a warning to us?

Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

(a false light, a self-deceiving light of self-righteousness)

I'm ok with God because I go to church.

I'm ok with God because I was raised in a Christian family.

I'm ok with God because I'm a good person.

Do we hear/believe Matt 7:21-27?

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

We are forgiven...but we have not “arrived”!

Let us not think more highly of ourselves than we should!

Let us think soberly, with the clear mind of Christ

We carry the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

There is salvation in no other name!

We must be ever-mindful of what we say and what we do – the All-seeing God sees everything and the unbelievers are watching

Our walk with Christ fools no one, except maybe ourself

It is genuine (albeit not perfect this side of eternity)

or it is a façade behind which is no substance

By self-righteously misrepresenting the Lord Jesus Christ (a disconnect of the heart),

By being no different than the unbeliever in his doings (unbelieving disobedience),

the Christian takes the name of the Lord their God in vain (Commandment #3)

May we not cause the name of Jesus Christ be blasphemed among them!

May we unconditionally surrender to our Lord and God!

May we be quick to ask for the power of God from on high to help us every day to walk with Jesus

We have a personal relationship with our Father in heaven – cultivate it by obedience

We have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ – cultivate it by obedience

We need a personal relationship with God the Holy Spirit – do we have it?

Ask for it, by faith

Cultivate it by obedience