

Romans 2:12

Two Carpenters... Have the two men, without a word, come to the stage and build what is on the drawing. One will have no tools, one will have many tools...

Over that past several weeks, we have been looking at the “*Principles of God’s Judgment.*” The principle we will look to this morning, speaks to the “*Fairness*” of this Judgment. It speaks to the “*Equality*” in which God will judge every man.

Read (Vs 9~12) Paul uses an interesting word to describe God as “*Not a respecter of persons...*” It literally means, “*to receive a face,*” that is, to give consideration to a person because of who he is.

We have a saying... “*Justice is Blind.*” Which is supposed to mean that it will not be influenced in its judgment making process by “*anything other than the facts, the evidence!*”

Though we have what is likely the “*Best Judicial System*” in the world...tragically, this is a principle that we have seen fail far too often in our judicial system today... More than once we have watched as people of great notoriety, people of great wealth, or people of fame, seem to “*get off easy...*” or “*get away*” with something as a result of their social status or financial clout.

Well, though that may be true in man’s judicial system here on earth, it will not be in God’s. The day we stand before God, & give an account of our lives, one thing we know for sure, is “*Justice will be served!*”

T: According to verses 6~8... **The “*Righteous Judge*” will look at the life we have lived here on earth, taking into account every piece of evidence, and on the basis of what he finds, will render His Righteous, Impartial Judgment...**

⁷**To them** who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality...
He will render **eternal life**:

⁸**But unto them** that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness...
He will render **indignation and wrath...**

In verses 9~11, **Paul reaffirms his point**, adding, “*Justice will be blind...*”

⁹Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

¹⁰But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that works good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile;

¹¹For there is no respect of persons with God.

God will be “**Impartial...**” He will show **no “*Favor or have Leniency*” towards anyone!**

The only thing that will “*influence*” His verdict...will be solely that of *the individual’s life!*

⁶God will render to every man **according to his deeds**:

Application for us here today is this... Whether a person has been “*raised in church*” or not...will make no difference. If one *holds an office* in the church, or not...will make no difference.

T: *MacArthur*... **The question will not be whether a man is a Jew or whether he is a Gentile, whether he is a heathen whether he is religious, whether he goes to church or whether he doesn’t go to church...the only question that day, will be...**

Q: Does the life manifest “**Righteousness or Unrighteousness?**”

Now listen...

If these are the “*Divine Principles of Judgment*,”... **and they are...**

If a man’s destiny is determined by whether or not “*his life*” manifest *righteousness...* **and it is...**

Thus, the real question becomes... **What is Righteousness?**

A “subject” that Paul will spend the rest of this chapter, and all of chapter 3 defining.

Two times in this passage, Paul makes reference to the “*Righteous Life*,” in verses 7, and 10. In verse 10, he used a very “*general description*,” saying...¹⁰ *But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that works good...* In verse 7, he was a little more “*descriptive*,” saying...⁷ *To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality...*

Very general terms; which could be interpreted in numerous ways... depending on how you define good.

In verse 12, Paul states the “*Clear Standard*” ... **Obedience to God’s Law...**

(Vs 12) ¹² *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...*

(Vs 11~12) God is “*No Respector of Persons.*” **All who have SINNED** will be punished!

Webster’s (**Righteousness**)... **Acting in accord with divine or moral law: free from guilt or sin.**
I was surprised to see them use the word “*sin...*”

Webster’s Dictionary (**Sin**)... 1) **An offense against religious or moral law, a shortcoming.**

2) **A transgression of the law of God. (1John 3:4...*sin is the transgression of the law*)**

3) **A faulty state of human nature in which the self is estranged from God.**

Thus, we can clearly define **Righteousness** as the “*Keeping of the law of God...*”

And **Unrighteousness** as the “*Transgression of the law of God...*”

The one who is “*Obedient to God’s Law*” will be declared **just** on that day...

The one who is “*Disobedient to God’s Law*” will be declared **guilty** on that day...

Understanding this *principle of Judgment*, one might ask... ..

Q: What about those who’ve never heard the bible?

If man is judged by his obedience to God’s law, how is it fair for those who have never heard it?

Take someone for example, who was raised up in a terrible environment... Maybe by parents who drank and partied all the time... A home where the bible was never mentioned...

Contrast that, to someone who was raised in a Christian home... Who was surrounded by godly parents, who were taught the ways of Christ, who attended Sunday School and Church every week...

Would it be fair to “*Judge*” those two people using the same standard?

Well...in verses 12~15, Paul answers such questions...

¹²For 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; ¹³(For not the hearers of the law *are* just before God, but the doers of

the law shall be justified. ¹⁴For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: ¹⁵Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

Now listen very closely to the truth I am speaking too...it is extremely important that each one of us understands the truth Paul is declaring here...

God will Judge every man, according to “*knowledge*” ...

T: Those who **do not** possess a knowledge of God’s written revelation...will be judged without it...
Those who **do** have a knowledge of God’s written revelation ...will be judged by it...

T: God will not hold man accountable for what he does not know...
But, he will hold man accountable for what he does know!

Explain Illustration: **Two Carpenters**...*(The tools represent knowledge, things to help build your life)*

The difference between the two men, and finished product, is a direct result of the tools he possessed or lack there of.

The one **had no instructions, who didn’t have what was needed to do the job**...god will judge the works of that man, on those basis.

To the one who **had instructions, who had the tools to do the job**...god will judge the works of that man, on those basis.

The Principle we learn here is, the more you know...the more accountable you will be before God!

It will make no difference whether you be a Jew or a Gentile, whether you have a good knowledge of the scripture or whether you have no knowledge of scripture...“*bible illiterate...*” You will be held accountable for the knowledge you possess...

And Paul makes it clear, the “*Gentiles*” are not without knowledge... In our day and society, “Gentiles” would be best described as those outside the “*Church*”! For Paul says, even though they do not know the scripture, they know the difference between right and wrong and god will hold them accountable for how much they know! They manifest by their “*actions*” that they have the law of God written in their hearts...

(Vs 14~15) Hey, most of the “*Gentiles*” are generally good people...

They live out their lives to a “*Standard of right and wrong...*” Many of them do not steal, they don’t kill, and they don’t commit murder, many don’t go around lying but are honest, hard working people!

By their “*Actions*”, they manifest that they are not without law! God has written His law on their hearts!

We learn from this passage...God levels the field, by making it that the amount of knowledge one has of God’s law is not the issue in his Judgment...

The issue, Paul says...is **Obedience to it! Righteousness...**

Look at verse 13...

(Vs 13) ¹³For **not the hearers** of the law **are just** before God, **but the doers** of the law **shall be justified**.

Righteousness comes by “*Keeping*” the law.....

Unrighteousness comes by “*Not Keeping*” the law...

It makes no difference whether a man has much knowledge of God’s written law or none. Regardless of their nationality, their upbringing, their knowledge... God will Judge every man **who has sinned** against Him.

In this case, the Jew who had *knowledge of the written law*, was at a disadvantage...

The Jews will fall under a much stricter judgment, than that of the gentiles, for the simple fact of the amount of knowledge they possess. They will be held accountable *to a much higher standard* than the Gentiles, because of their greater knowledge of God’s law!

¹³**And remember**...**not the hearers** of the law **are just** before God, **but the doers** of the law **shall be justified**.

Paul is telling the Jew here, that just because you know what the law says, *that doesn’t declare you innocent* before God...but rather makes you more accountable before God!

Are you “*Sinless*” when it comes to the keeping of God’s law...Have you kept them all?

At this point, its almost as if Paul is asking the Jew...

(2:3) ³*And think thou this, O man, that judges them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shall escape the judgment of God?*

What makes you think that you will escape the judgment of God, when your guilty of the same things they are...**transgressing against the law of God!**

Remember... According to my gospel...**God will Judge every man who has sinned against Him**, regardless of their nationality, their upbringing, their knowledge of Scripture...

Sounds hopeless doesn’t it? **I mean, who has not “transgressed” against God’s law?** And that is just the intended end of Paul’s point...Read (3:9~12)

The man Paul is writing too here is a Jew... A man that describes many in the church today... They base their “righteousness” on their “Supposed Obedience” to God. By their tithing, by attending church, by being a member of a church... They do not drink, do drugs, cuss, lie... All in all, good moral people.

But the problem with that is...good moral people, don’t go to heaven! Because regardless how “Good” will appear, we’ve all sinned. Thus we are all under the wrath of God! And there’s nothing we can do.

That’s where Jesus comes in... God’s standard is “*Righteousness!*” Christ is our righteousness...