

“The Voice Of God”
Romans 2:12-16

Introduction:

1. When My Wife & I Bought:
 - Our First House:
 - I Was Amazed:
 - At How Much Paper-Work Was Involved:
 - And How Many Times:
 - We Had To Sign Our Names On That Paper-Work!
 - And - I Was Even A Banker At The Time!
 - But - For The Most Part:
 - Our Signatures Were Not For:
 - The Transfer Of The Property:
 - But For The Loan & The Mortgage That We Took Out:
 - To Help Us Buy The House!
 - This Was Because - Unlike The Way Things:
 - Might Have Been - In The Past:
 - When A “Man’s Word Was His Bond!”
 - The Bank Couldn’t Care Less:
 - About My Word Or My Wife’s Promise To Pay Them Back!
 - Instead - They **Wanted** A Bond!
 - They Wanted A **Contract!**
 - They Wanted Collateral!
 - They Wanted The House:
 - If We Didn’t Pay Them Back!
 - And So - Our Words:
 - Didn’t Mean **Anything** To Them!
2. Well - When It Comes:
 - To The Voice & To The Word Of God:
 - His Word **Is** His Bond - Because - His Word Is **Always** Binding!
 - And This Is What We Will Find:
 - As We Continue Our Series Through:
 - Paul’s Letter To The Churches In Rome!
 - So - Please Turn Back With Me There:
 - To Romans 2 - Where We Have Been Looking At:
 - Several Principles:
 - Of God’s Judgment!
 - And The Last Principle:
 - We Looked At Is In:
 - 2:11 - Which Reminds Us That:
 - God And His Judgment Is:
 - Always Impartial!
 - “For there is no respect of persons with God!”
3. And In The Next Five Verses:
 - The Impartiality Of God:
 - Is Seen Through The Impartial Standard:
 - He Will Use Judge Us All!
 - That Is - The Standard Of:
 - His Own Voice & The Revelation Of His Own Will!
 - So - Beginning In:
 - 2:12-16 - We Read:
 - “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; / (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. / For 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: / Which shew 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;) / In the day when God shall

- judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel!”
4. Paul Is Still Teaching Us That:
- God’s Judgment Is Impartial:
 - No Matter Who You Are:
 - And No Matter How Privileged You Are!
 - So - Whether You Are A Jew Or Gentile:
 - 2:16 - “God Shall Judge” Even Your *Secrets* On The Day Of His Judgment!
 - And This Is Why:
 - No Matter Who You Are:
 - You Need To Listen To The Voice Of God!
 - You Need To Respond To:
 - Whatever Light He Has Given You!
- Because - As We First See - From 2:12:

1. His Voice Is Unrestrained!

- That His - God Has *Not* Withheld His Voice:
 - From *Anyone* In This World:
 - So That Now - *Everyone* Is Responsible And:
 - Accountable To God:
 - For Their Sins!
- 2:12 - “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!”
 - In This Verse - Paul Is Refers Back To:
 - The Two Basic Groups Of People:
 - That The *Jews* Recognized!
 - The Jews Only Recognized:
 - *Themselves* - As The Ones Specially Favored By God:
 - And - *Everyone Else* - The Gentiles!
 - The Jews Believed:
 - That When God Gave Them His Law:
 - At Mt. Sinai - Through Moses:
 - It Proved That They Were On Good Terms & In Good Standing With God!
 - However, Beginning With This Verse:
 - And Through The Rest Of Romans:
 - Paul Is Going To Give Them & Us The *Right* Understanding Of God’s Law!
 - Because This Is First Time Paul Talks About The Law! And Then Uses The Word “Law” 11 Times In These 5 Verses!
 - But - Before He Gets To The Jews:
 - He Wants To Tell Us About Those Who Have:
 - “Sinned *Without* Law!”
 - That Is - The Gentiles - Which - For The Most Part:
 - Would Include You And Me!
 - 2:12a - “For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law!”
 - The Law Paul Is Talking About Here:
 - Is The Law That God Gave To Moses:
 - And To The Israelites - On Mt. Sinai!
 - The Law That Included His Moral Law (The Ten Commandments) As Well As The Ceremonial Laws (For Worship) & Civil Laws!
 - The Majority Of The Nations - The Gentiles:
 - Did Not Receive This Law!
 - In Fact - Thousands Of Years Of History Had Already Passed:
 - Before This Special Revelation Was Given By God!
 - And Yet - What Was Still Present:
 - In Those Who Did Not Receive God’s Law?
 - *Sin!* They Still Sinned!
 - But - What Is Sin?
 - According To 1 John 3:4 - “Sin is the transgression of the law!”
 - But - If The Gentiles Did Not Have *The* Law - How Could They Have Sinned?

- They Sinned - Because They Too Had **A** Law! They Too Had The Voice Of God!
- We Already Saw In Romans 1:
 - That God Has Given Enough Light:
 - About Himself - To Render All Men:
 - Guilty In Their Disobedience To God And His Will!
 - 1:20 - "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse!"
 - So - Even Though The Gentiles Did **Not** Receive The **Special** Revelation & Voice:
 - Of God & His Will Through The Law!
 - They **Did** Receive The **General** Revelation & Voice Of God!
 - And As They Rejected It, They Sinned Against Him & His Holy Nature!
- And So - They Will:
 - 2:12 - "Also Perish Without Law!"
 - They Will Be Judged By The Voice Of God They **Did** Hear & By The Light Of God They **Did** See!
 - And Because Of Their Sin - They Will "Perish!"
- Now - The Jews Would Have Agreed With This!
 - They Would Say - "Paul - You Are So Right!"
 - But Now - He Turns His Attention:
 - To The Jews - Who:
- "Sinned **In** The Law!"
 - 2:12b - "And as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law!"
 - The Jews Needed To Be Reminded:
 - That God Is An Impartial Judge!
 - And That Just Because They Were Given God's Law Didn't Mean That They Were Exempt From God's Judgment!
 - No - Instead - Because They Had God's Law:
 - And Had A Greater Understanding:
 - Of God's Will - They Would Be Held Responsible For The Additional Light They Received!
 - As Jesus Said In:
 - Luke 12:48 - "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required!"
- And So:
 - For Both Gentiles & Jews:
 - God Judgment Is Impartial! He Will Judge:
 - Based On The Voice They Heard:
 - And The Light They Saw:
 - From Him!
 - The Voice Of God To The Gentiles:
 - Was / Is The World That He Created - His General Revelation!
 - **But** - The Voice Of God To The Jews:
 - Was Not A Different Voice! Instead - It Was A More Direct Voice!
 - And - They Were **All** Responsible:
 - To Listen To His Voice!
 - But They Refused!
 - But - In Many Ways:
 - So Have We! Haven't We?
 - So Now, We Need To Remember That This Is Why Jesus Came In The First Place!
 - Luke 19:10 - "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost!"
 - "Lost" Here Is The Same Word Translated "Perish" In 2:12!
 - Jesus Came To Be Your Savior:
 - So That - Whether You Are A Jew Or A Gentile:
 - And Have Been Given Much Light Or Just A Little Light:
 - You Can Be Saved From & Forgiveness Of Your Sin! So That You Will Not "Perish, But Have Everlasting Life!"
 - So - You Need To Listen To:

- The Voice Of God!
- Listen To The Voice Of Your Savior!

* But Then - We Also See That:

2. ***His Voice Is Unconditional!***

- That Is - God - As The Impartial Judge:
 - Requires The Same Thing Of Everyone!
 - And We See This In:
- 2:13 - “For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified!”
 - **IE:** Remember When You Got Your Drivers License For The First Time? There Were A Few Tests You Had To Take And Pass In Order To Get Your License! A Written Test / A Driving Test / And An Eye Test! Once You Passed All Of Those Tests - You Got Your License!
 - And It Gave You The **Authority** - To Drive!
 - But - Did That Same License:
 - Give You The **Ability** To Drive?
 - Of Course Not!
 - Which Is Why We Wonder Sometimes:
 - If Someone Got Their License Out Of:
 - A Cracker Jack Box!
 - And - So It Is With:
 - The Voice & The Will Of God - Which Was Revealed To The Jews:
 - In The Law!
 - We Know From The Bible - That Just:
 - **Having** God’s Law Isn’t Enough!
 - **IE:** Just Like Merely Possessing A Licence Doesn’t Make You A Good & A Safe Driver!
 - The Jews Were Given The Law:
 - By God - At Mt. Sinai! An Event That We Just Read In Exodus!
 - But - That Law Just Reminded Them:
 - Of What They Already Knew About God!
 - But - Just **Having** God’s Law Wasn’t Enough For Them!
 - But Also - Just:
 - **Hearing** God’s Law Isn’t Enough!
 - 2:13a - “For not the hearers of the law are just before God!”
 - **IE:** You May Have Gotten 100% On All Of The Tests You Took In Order To Get Your Drivers License! But Try Telling That To The Police Officer When You Are Pulled Over For Reckless Driving!
 - So - Just **Hearing** God’s Law Isn’t Enough Either!
 - Enough To Render You “Just” And Without Guilt:
 - In The Court Of God!
 - Of Course - This Reminds Us Of What James Tells Us - In James 1:22-24:
 - “But 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!”
 - And This Is Why Paul Adds That:
 - **Heeding** God’s Law Is What’s Necessary:
 - To Be Justified Before God:
 - As The Impartial Judge!
 - 2:13b - “But the doers of the law shall be justified!”
 - Now - Once Again:
 - Paul Is Not Contradicting Himself:
 - When He Says In 3:20 - That - “By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight!”
 - Because Here:
 - He Is Talking About The Only Kind Of Obedience:
 - That **Can** Justify Someone Before God!
 - And That Is Complete & Perfect & Whole-Hearted Obedience!
 - But - Who Has Ever:

- Obeyed God's Law In This Way?
 - **Noone** - Except For One!
 - No Gentile! No Jew! Noone:
 - But Jesus Christ & Him Alone!
- And So - In This Way:
 - For Both Gentiles & Jews:
 - God Proves Himself To Be Impartial!
 - He Will Only Justify Someone On The Basis Of Perfect Obedience To His Law!
 - And Isn't This Also Why Jesus Came?
 - He Came Not Only To Be Our Savior:
 - He Also Came To Be Our Substitute!
 - Not Only - To Die The Death:
 - That You Deserved To Die!
 - But Also - To Live The Life:
 - That You Could Not Live!
 - A Life Of Perfect Obedience & Righteousness!
 - So That - When You Believe In Him:
 - You Can Be - As Edward Mote Once Wrote:
 - "Dressed in his righteousness alone,
 - Faultless to stand before the throne!"
 - So - Now - You Need To Listen To:
 - The Voice Of God!
 - Listen To The Voice Of Your Savior & Substitute!

* But Then - Paul Further Explains How:

3. ***His Voice Is Universal!***

- That Is - Even The Gentiles Hear God's Voice!
 - 2:14-15 - "For 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: / Which shew 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!"
 - In These Verses - Paul Explains What He Wrote:
 - Back In 2:12a - About The Gentiles:
 - Sinning - "Without Law!"
 - They Were Never Without:
 - A Witness To God & His Voice!
 - And So Paul First Describes:
 - The Witness Of Conduct!
 - 2:14 - "For 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!"
 - So - For Those Who Never Received God's Written Law Or Word - Or - Who Never Even Heard About It - This Would Even Apply Today!
 - **IE:** Though There Are Fewer & Fewer Who Have Never Had Access To God's Word & The Gospel - There Are Still Many Who Need It! Yet:
 - Their Own Conduct:
 - Is A Witness To The Voice Of God!
 - The Writing Of The Law:
 - May Be Absent - But:
 - The Works Of The Law:
 - Are Present!
 - This Simply Means That Even Someone Who Never Heard About God & His Laws Has A Basic Inclination To Have Those Same Laws!
 - **IE:** In Ancient Babylon - The Sixth Babylonian King - Named Hammurabi - Came Up With A List Of 282 Laws - And Inscribed Them On Stone - A Few Hundred Years Before & More Than A Thousand Miles Away From Moses! And Some Of His Laws Dealt With The Same Crimes As God's Law! Slander! Fraud! Adultery! Theft! Perjury! Some Of The Laws Were So Closely Worded That Scholars Have Wondered If Moses Copied Hammurabi! No - Hammurabi Copied The Moral Law Of God - Based On What He & Others Knew - "By Nature!"

- God Is A Moral God & God Made Man A Moral Being! After His Image & Likeness! It Makes Sense That Basic Laws Would Reflect Basic Morality, Since That Is How God Made Us!
- Any Moral Conduct Done By Man:
 - Is A Witness To The Voice & The Light Of God!
 - Also See:
- The Witness Of Conscience!
 - 2:15a - "Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness!"
 - As His Special Creation:
 - God Has "Written" In Our Hearts:
 - The "Work" Of His Law!
 - This Is Different:
 - Than What God Does:
 - When You Become A Christian:
 - When The Lord Says - Jeremiah 31:33 - "I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts!"
 - Here - It Is Said:
 - The "Works Of The Law" - Which Means:
 - The Basic Discernment:
 - Of Right & Wrong - As Well As:
 - The Basic Desire:
 - For Justice & Equity!
 - John Gill - "In their hearts, there are some remains of the old law and light of nature, which as by their outward conduct appears!"
 - Of Course - This Discernment & Desire:
 - For The "Work Of The Law" Can Quickly:
 - Become Tarnished & Tainted!
 - But - God Himself Put It There - In The Heart Of Every Person!
 - As Well As - The Conscience!
 - **IE:** Which Is Like The Engine Warning Light On Your Car! It Tells You Something Is Wrong! But You Can Ignore It! Maybe It Even Starts Flashing! But You Still Ignore It! Eventually, The Bulb Might Go Out - But Not The Problem!
 - Your Conscience:
 - Which God Has Given You - Is A Spiritual Sensor:
 - To What Is Right & Wrong!
 - And - It Is A Witness To The Voice & Light Of God!
 - But Also See:
- The Witness Of Concern!
 - 2:15b - "And their thoughts the mean while [All The While] accusing or else excusing one another!"
 - Just The Fact That A Person Even:
 - **Cares** About Right & Wrong:
 - Whatever Their Definition May Be To Them:
 - Indicates That They Have Heard God's Voice & Seen God's Light - At Least In Some Measure!
 - Sometimes - They Will:
 - "Accuse" Themselves:
 - And May Feel Some Guilt & Shame:
 - For Something They Have Done!
 - Other Times - They Will:
 - "Excuse" Themselves:
 - And May Feel Justified For What They Thought Or Said Or Did!
 - Unfortunately:
 - The "Excusing" Will Become More & More Prominent - The More:
 - A Person Ignores Their Conscience Or Informs Their Conscience With Voices & Standards Other Than God's!
 - But - Even This Moral Concern:
 - Is A Witness To The Voice & Light Of God!
- And This Is Why:

- God Remains Impartial In His Judgment!
 - Because God Has Given Everyone:
 - A Basic Knowledge Of His Law:
 - That Renders Everyone Without Excuse!
- Even The Witness Of:
 - Your Own Conduct & Conscience & Concern:
 - About Moral Issues:
 - Will Testify Against You In The Day Of God's Judgment!
 - And They Will Incriminate You!
 - No "Pleading The Fifth!"
- But - Isn't This Also Why Jesus Came?
 - He Came To Be Your Savior & Your Substitute!
 - But - He Also Came To Be:
 - Your Surety!
 - When You Turn To & Trust In:
 - Jesus As Your Savior:
 - He Becomes The Only Advocate & Witness You Need!
 - 1 John 2:1-2 - "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: / And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world!"
- On The Day Of God's Judgment:
 - Who Will Testify On Your Behalf?
 - Will It Be Christ?

Conclusion:

1. And This Is An Important Question:
 - To Ask Yourself - Because Of What Paul Reminds Us Of Next:
 - In 2:16 - "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel!"
 - More Than Likely - This Verse:
 - Finishes The Paul's Thought:
 - Back In Either 2:12 Or 2:13 - With The Rest Of The Verses Being In A Parenthesis & Explaining More Of What He Said About The Gentiles!
 - But - Either Way:
 - Paul Is Reminding Us Once Again:
 - Of God's Final Day Of Judgment!
2. Not Only Is This Day:
 - A Day Of Impending Judgment!
 - Because - It Keeps Getting Closer! It's Closer Today:
 - Than It Was - Even Last Week:
 - When We Talked About It!
 - It Is Also A Day:
 - Of Internal Judgment!
 - Not Only Will He Assess:
 - What You've Done:
 - In The Dark!
 - He Will Also Judge:
 - What You've Done:
 - In Your Heart!
 - Even As We Are Told In The Old Testament Book:
 - Of Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 - "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. / For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil!"
 - It Will Also Be The Day:
 - Of Impartial Judgment!
 - When Jesus Christ Himself:
 - Will Be The Judge!
 - And - This Is All Part Of & According To:
 - The Gospel:

- Which - From 1:16 - Is Still - “The power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek!”
- Even All Of This Talk:
 - Of God’s Judgment & Wrath:
 - Is Part Of The Good News Of The Gospel!
- 3. So - Are You Listening:
 - To The Voice Of God Today?
 - Remember:
 - Since We’ve Disobeyed:
 - The Unrestrained Voice Of God:
 - Jesus Came To Be Our Savior!
 - Since We’ve Refused:
 - The Unconditional Voice Of God:
 - Jesus Came To Be Our Substitute!
 - And - Since We’ve Ignored:
 - The Unavoidable Voice Of God:
 - Jesus Came To Be Our Surety!
 - So - Listen To His Voice:
 - And Follow The One:
 - Who Came *To* You & *For* You!
 - John 10:27 - “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me!”
 - Listen To The Voice Of God!

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