

# Why We Need a Savior

Sermon 4 in the Romans Series

## Romans 2:1-16

INTRO: To get the full impact of Paul's "sermon" so to speak – I am ready to preach the gospel to you in Rome also." **1:15-17**

Then, he goes right to the gospel. **1:18.** The bad news ends at 3:20

### I. A Parenthesis – God's Law in the Gentiles Heart -- 2:12-16

**Verse 16** completes the thought of **verse 12.**

Verses **13-15** make an important point – in this context – in which Gentiles and Gentile societies often agree with God's Moral Law – even if they don't understand it is God's law – because it is built into them by conscience.

The Bible was written to Jews, but all men are made in the image of God – so all men – until they suppress the truth have an innate knowledge of right and wrong.

Gentiles often "do the law" – following their conscience – and in most societies – the collective conscience follows along the lines of the second table of the Moral Law – the Ten Commandments, especially commandments 5-9.

It takes a debased mind and a debased society to approve of breaking commandments 5-9.

### II. Self-righteous Jews? They are also law-breakers 2:12, 16

God knows the secrets.

Men judge according to sight – or what they perceive to be the truth.

God knows the heart – and without Christ – as it says in the law – **Jeremiah 17:9**

"The heart is deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

The hallmark of religious hypocrisy is looking good on the outside of the cup – but being full of sin within (Matthew 23).

This is not necessarily overtly sinning – in the eyes of man, But sinning in the heart and feeling superior to those who obviously do not have the knowledge of God.

But God knows the heart!

Hearing and even knowing the law is NOT enough.

Doing the law (impossible for all of us) is what counts.

Christians can be thankful for double imputation – our sins were imputed to Christ and Christ lived a perfect life which is imputed to us.

### III. No Partiality with God -- 2:1-11

#### 1. Judge Not

v. 1 is a restatement of **Matthew 7:1-3** -- “Judge not, that you be not judged. <sup>2</sup> For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. <sup>3</sup> And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?”

Judge not is used often by those who do not want any criticism.

It needs to be understood that – judge not – does not apply to God! **2:2**

#### 2. Guilty of the same Sins v. 3

Some thought that God would overlook their sins because of their status as God’s covenant people.

#### 3. Presuming on Privilege -- v. 4

The Jew mentioned here found it easy to think his experience of God’s goodness meant that God would not judge him as strictly as the heathen. In fact, just the opposite is true.

#### 4. The basis of God’s Judgment 5-11

Paul is not talking about salvation works.

Paul is talking about condemnation by trusting in your own works.

a. v. 5 -- Wrath is being stored up – like an account. comes to those who reject greater light.

b. v. 6 -- Revelation 20:11-15 -- <sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before the throne and the books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Phil. 4:3 -- ...and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names *are* in the Book of Life.

Rev. 13:8 -- ... everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

Without Christ -- you will be justly condemned by your works.