

## Man's Accountability to God # 6

Romans 2: 11-16

Tonight we continue to consider the admonishment Paul gives to the hypocrite, those who sense the holy, righteous nature of God and yet choose to spurn His guidance in their lives. Outwardly they try to present a measure of righteousness within themselves, but inwardly they are corrupt and sinful. Often these ignore the truth that dictates their lives, the same truth that dictates all of human life. God is aware of the lives we live and where we stand with Him.

Many today refuse to believe there is any accountability beyond the constraints our modern society presents. They view life as a onetime event: living, dying, and disappearing from all existence. They refuse to acknowledge any accountability to God in eternity. Clearly we know this is not the case. We all will stand before the Lord and give account of the lives we have lived. The unbeliever and rejecter of truth will be no different. Denial of truth does not remove or dispel truth. [Rev.20:12 – And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is \*the book of life\*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.](#)

We have a fairly complex passage before us this evening. I trust we will allow God's Word to speak for itself and gain insight from these particular verses. I want to examine the [principles of judgment](#) Paul reveals as we consider: [Man's Accountability to God](#).

**I. The Clarity in Judgment** (11) – [For there is no respect of persons with God](#). Paul reveals a divine principle that offers great clarity in judgment. We can discern that:

**A. Judgment is Universal** – As we have already mentioned, all are accountable for the lives they live. [There is no respect of persons with God](#). All have received a measure of truth and are responsible for how they respond to that truth. None will be exempt from accountability to God. Our only hope is to have the righteousness of Christ imputed to our account. That is the only means of being justified to God and avoiding His righteous judgment.

**B. Judgment is Inescapable** – As I consider these sobering words, I also realize none will be able to escape this righteous judgment. Paul does not speak of mere mortals who watch our lives or demand accountability. This accountability is to the Lord Himself. Sin brings separation; and if sin is not atoned, it leads to condemnation and judgment. All who stand before the Lord, without the righteousness of Christ imputed to their account in salvation, will face His judgment. There will

be no escape. There will be no reprieve or pardon. God will show no respect or mercy to those who have willfully denied His gracious offer of salvation. Judgment will be certain.

**II. The Certainty in Judgment** (12) – Paul further confirms man’s accountability and the certainty of judgment. He speaks of:

**A. The Lawless** (12a) – *For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law.* Paul deals with those who die apart from Christ who have neglected the law and lived their lives in total disregard to the law. They will have no excuse. These will face the righteous judgment of God and perish without the law. These may not have attended church or read the Bible. They maybe weren’t as familiar with the ways of God as others, but God will have revealed Himself in such a way, they will be without excuse.

**B. The Lawful** (12b) – *and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law.* Here we see the opposite of the lawless. Paul reveals those who have sinned within the law will be judged according to the law. This speaks of those who have received great light. These were confronted by the Truth of Scripture and yet chose to deny Truth. They understood the righteous standards of God and ignored them. These too shall face divine judgment. God is no respecter of persons. *Ezekiel 18:4 – Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.*

**III. The Consciousness of Judgment** (13-15) – Now Paul deals with man’s consciousness, his awareness of accountability and judgment. Consider:

**A. The Application** (13) – *For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.* This is really quite simple: simply hearing and knowing truth is never enough. One can know and perceive the righteous standard God demands and yet never respond to the truth he knows. Men have a conscience which teaches morality, right and wrong. Truth is good to know, but it also must be heeded and acted upon. We are not only responsible to know truth, but to respond to the truth we are given.

- Paul is not teaching a “works based” salvation. We know if we are guilty of breaking the law in one point, we are guilty of all. He is referring to our response to the truth. Justification is in Christ alone, resting in His finished work!

**B. The Attitude** (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:* This further reveals accountability to God in regard to truth. Paul speaks of the Gentiles, those who were not raised hearing the Scriptures and surrounded by truth, living their lives in accordance with the law. These have responded to the truth given, moved by their own conscience, to seek additional truth. They had not received the written Word, but they responded to the presentation of truth.

- All will be accountable to God, responsible for the truth imparted to them. God will reveal Himself to humanity in such a way, they will be unable to avoid or deny His revelation. *Rom.1:19-20 – Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.*<sup>[20]</sup> *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:* Our attitude and response to His truth will have a direct impact on our eternity.

**C. The Activity** (15) – *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;* Paul continues to deepen his case for accountability as he discusses the behavior of those apart from the law. It is dangerous to allow our conscience be our guide; that should be reserved for the Word of God. However, Paul speaks of those who have responded to their conscience after being exposed to truth. The behavior and actions of some is improved, while the actions and behavior of others is not. Both have received a measure of truth, and the difference lies in how they respond to the truth they received. Some attend to the nagging nature of their conscience while others ignore it and even abandon it until it is seared and no longer effective.

- Most would agree with the existence of conscience. We would also agree that it deals with morality, right and wrong. This begs the question: if there is no God and no accountability for sin, why would one even have a conscience? Why would it matter how we live or behave in this life? The very inborn conscience we all possess reveals the existence of God and our accountability to His righteous standard.

**IV. The Conclusion of Judgment** (16) – *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.* Here Paul discusses the finality of judgment. Notice:

**A. The Appointment** – He reveals there is coming a day when God will judge men. That day is set upon God's calendar. We have no way of knowing when that day will come, but it will arrive in His time. The saved will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, *2 Cor.5:10*, and the lost will stand before the Great White Throne in Judgment (which is in view here.)

**B. The Arraignment** (16) – *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.* The hypocrite and sinner lives a life of deceit, believing their sin is unnoticed by anyone. Many feel as if they have gotten away with their iniquities, but it is clear that God is keeping a record. He will expose them for who they truly are, revealing the secrets they worked so hard to conceal. What a dreadful time awaits those who deny the grace of God!

**C. The Arbitration** (16) – *In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.* Finally Paul reveals the righteous standard by which God will judge the wicked, according to the Gospel of His Son, Jesus Christ. There will be no other evidence taken into consideration. The works of men, their good deeds and gracious gestures will not influence the Judge as He passes judgment. The only criteria used will be the Gospel. These will have denied the atoning sacrifice of Christ and will be left to face the righteous judgment of God, forced to stand accountable for their sin.

- There will be no mercy on that day. The day of mercy and grace will have ended. These will be judged for their sin and cast out into eternal condemnation and judgment. Cries for leniency will go unheeded. The time for salvation will have passed and eternal judgment will be carried out.

**Conclusion:** This has been a sobering passage to consider. It reveals the urgency of our time. All are confronted with the Truth. Each of us has a personal responsibility to respond to the Truth we have received. Judgment waits those who deny the Gospel of Christ and His atoning grace. Apart from Him, there will be full accountability to God for sin. It is a debt men will not want to stand before God and owe, and yet sadly this will be reality for countless millions.

I rejoice to know that I was presented with the Gospel Truth and responded by faith unto salvation. Many have not. You have heard the Truth. How will you respond? Do you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Has your sin been atoned in Christ? Church, we all know those who stand in danger of God's righteous judgment. I pray this will encourage and challenge us to be a witness unto the lost and perishing. If there are needs today, seek the Lord as He calls.