NO SECRETS WHEN IN ROME II ROMANS 2:12-16

Pastor Jeff Robinson



"First...human beings, all over the earth, have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way...Second...they do not in fact behave that way. These two facts are the foundation of all clear thinking about ourselves and the universe we live in." - C. S. Lewis

Romans 2:12-16

For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³ For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. ¹⁴ For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them ¹⁶ on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Probing questions

- Q: Is it possible to sin without knowing the Bible? 2:12 For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.
 - o A: Apparently so!
- Q: Is knowing the Bible enough to have a right relationship with God? – 2:13 For it is not the <u>hearers</u> of the law who are righteous before God, but the <u>doers</u> of the law who will be justified.
 - o A: Only "the doers of the law" will be justified.
 - Q: Who are "the doers of the law?"
 - Religious devotees (Pharisees)?
 - Secular moralists (Stoics)?

- James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.
- Q: What about those who have never heard of Jesus? 2:14-15 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them
 - A: They have the moral law of God written on their hearts – 2:15a They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts,
 - A: They have the witness of the conscience 2:15b
 while their conscience also bears witness,
 - A: They know the difference between right and wrong and the struggle with guilt – 2:16 and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them
 - O Q: So, can salvation be found outside of Jesus Christ?
 - Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
 - Q: Is God still just to judge those who have never heard?
 - God judges them based on the standard of light/revelation they received (Romans 1 & 2).
 - 2) God is not obligated to save humanity. God saving *anyone* is an act of undeserved mercy.
 - 3) If we're genuinely concerned about those who have never heard, then let's share the Gospel (Give and go).

- Q: What is the ultimate standard? 2:16 on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.
 - A: Jesus Christ. Look to Him!

Action points

- Download the Joshua Project app: https://joshuaproject.net
- Commit to praying for a specific Unreached or Unengaged People Group.