

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

GENTILES HAVE SOME LAW TOO!

Romans 2:12-16

Jews, Jews, Jews!

Remember that this passage is still explaining the problems of the Jews. First Paul challenged their pride in judging the Gentiles (Romans 2:1-4), then he said they were storing up wrath because they were not obeying the law even though they had it (Romans 2:5-13) and lastly, he is going to say that the Gentiles are not without any “law.” That is our focus today.

Obedience Is The Issue

Romans 2:12-13

Last week we discussed the fact that Jews and Gentiles alike were guilty before God, even though one group had the Mosaic Law and the other did not. Both will be judged. Now in the passage today we will discuss how that could be since guilt is based on violating God’s law.

The Gentiles Are Their Own Law?

Romans 2:14-15

The Gentiles Sometimes Obey!

- ❑ What a slap in the face for the Jews! Even though the Gentiles do not have the benefit of the law, they still obey sometimes.
- ❑ This obedience is because of God giving them a natural sense of general right and wrong. This is similar to the general revelation that we studied in *Romans 1:18-32*. People “know” God and they “know” some of what He expects.
- ❑ The Gentiles are a “law” in themselves in the sense that they are held accountable to what they know is right and wrong. *Romans 1:32*

The Law of the Conscience

- ❑ This is that fuzzy sense of right and wrong that every person has. Even though this is a very imperfect law, it still functions as a standard for those who have never heard God’s law in Scripture. *Romans 2:12-16*
- ❑ The work of the law is written on their hearts. This means that the Gentiles know that they must obey God’s law by acting on what they know is right or wrong.
- ❑ This condemns them or it defends them. It can do both in people because no one obeys perfectly like they are supposed to.

The Judge Declares Everyone Guilty

Romans 2:16

- ❑ This goes back to verse 12 where both the Jew and the Gentile are going to perish or be judged.
- ❑ We know that at this judgment, everyone who relies on their obedience to get justified will be facing nothing but wrath. What a scary thought!

So What?

1. Drop any trust in your own works immediately!
2. We must watch out for pride. That causes us to get too comfortable with our sin.
3. The law and God’s demand of perfection are meant to push us back to the only hope we have—the gospel.
4. This should cause us to fall in love more with Jesus Christ! Look at what He has saved you from.