

God Is No Respector of Persons

(Rom 2:11-16)

- Remember the context is the universal need of salvation, because ALL are under the wrath of God outside Christ
 - The importance of always reading a passage with and also without the parenthesis to not lose the linear thought
- I. The structure and the parenthesis
- A) The KJV translators saw fit to put v.13-15 in brackets, whereas new versions either remove it or move it
1. Ending- V.16 can only go with v.12, for it is describing what happens on the Day of Judgment
 - i. That day is too late to “accuse” or “excuse” one another, for all judgment/discernment on that day belongs to Christ
 2. Beginning- Some say the parenthesis starts at v.14, but v.13 cannot link to v.16, for no one has ever kept the Law for righteousness
- B) Main idea- v.11-12 & 16 Possible arguments foreseen- v.13-15
1. The main statement comes first, and then the argument of the parenthesis is added between
 - i. V.11 is the theme of this section from 2:1-2:29 and is in perfect agreement with the overall section from 1:18-3:20- “all under wrath”
 - a) The Jew or any other who judged the gentile position as worthy is in no wise excluded from the judgment of God, but is actually under a more severe judgment
- II. There is never and has never been a human who is completely without respect of persons, either of others or himself
- A) This leads man to assume that God is the same, as the Jew did in this example
1. Rom 2:2- But God must be no respector of persons for He is righteous, and therefore it is impossible for him to show partiality where sin is concerned in any way; His judgment is just
 2. Deut 32:4- “All His ways are just and right” (Psa 145:17)
- III. Rom 2:12- 2 types- “under law” and “not under the law”
- A) 1 Cor 9:20-21- Paul varied his method to those “under” and “not under” the law
- B) The gentile is not judged as though he had the written law, but is judged exactly as he is found
1. The man who has never heard the gospel is not judged as though he had
 - i. He is condemned as one that never had the written revelation

- ii. This does not mean that man is saved by some means outside the gospel and Christ
 - a) The section has nothing whatsoever to do with justification, it is all condemnation
 - b) Just as the previous section did not teach that any man will be justified by works, this section does not teach that any man will be saved outside the gospel
 - c) The main idea of this subsection is that the Jew and any like him (Rom 2:1), who had the law, is not only not free from God's wrath, but will be judged by a higher and more severe standard
 - 2. What matters at the day of judgment is not race or privilege, but unpaid sin
 - i. V.12- "as many as have sinned" and "as many as have sinned" regardless of persons
 - 3. Notice that Paul deliberately chooses a different word to refer to each groups judgment, although the destination is the same
 - i. Perish- for those without law
 - ii. Judged- For those with law
 - a) The standard is higher and more pressing for the one with the word of God
 - 1) Luke 12:42-48- Those that knew His will and did not beaten with many stripes
 - (a) 2 Cor 5:10- This is same principle we find in the rewarding of those in Christ
 - (b) Rev 14:13- "And their works follow with them"
- IV. Rom 2:16- The Day of Judgment is a part of the gospel
- A) Rom 1:16-18- Notice judgment and wrath are in the same theme as salvation and righteousness
 - 1. If we skip this, we are preaching an incomplete gospel
 - 2. Modern man says this shouldn't be preached, because modern man doesn't like the "fire and brimstone" of his forefathers
 - i. But surely God knows best what is to be preached
 - ii. A man must know that it is only Christ that can save him for the eternal wrath of God Almighty, and without that knowledge can never see that Christ took the wrath upon Himself
- V. "By Jesus Christ"
- A) John 5:22- ALL judgment committed unto the Son
 - B) John 5:26- Authority given to judge ALL
 - 1. The Father looks solely to the Son for ALL judgment
 - 2. Acts 17:31- He hath appointed a day for the Son to judge
 - C) John 5:27- "Because He is the Son of Man"

1. As a reward for humbly Himself and becoming man (Phil 2:5-9)
2. Because He is the Head of the body, the new race (Eph 1:22-23)
3. Because He experienced flesh and all its temptations and experiences (Heb 2:14-18)
 - i. No one can ever attack God's judgment in this matter, and say that He sits high above and judges without mercy things which He cannot understand

VI. "Secrets"

A) Heb 4:12- Thoughts and intents of the heart

1. It is not enough to be as the Pharisee, outwardly clean, for God will judge the very thoughts and imaginations of all men
 - i. Matt 12:36- Every idle word to be brought into judgment
 - ii. Gen 6:5- Every imagination of man's heart

VII. "According to my gospel"

A) Paul does not say "according to whether or not he knew my gospel" as so many teach

1. He is not stating that the gospel is the method of the judgment, he is saying that according to the word of God, it is Christ Who shall judge in that day
 - i. Matt 25:32- Before Christ is gathered all nations
 - ii. John 5:22- The Father judgeth no man"
 - iii. Acts 10:42- Christ ordained to be judge of quick and dead
 - iv. Acts 17:31- World to be judged by ordained Christ
 - v. Rom 14:10- We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ
 - vi. 2 Tim 4:1- Christ shall judge the quick and dead at His appearing