**A Tell-Tale Heart**

*Romans 2:12–16*

**Passage Background and Context Information**

The Apostle Paul wrote the book of Romans. Paul was a Jewish Pharisee and persecutor of the Christian church. Only after the Resurrected Jesus appeared to him and commissioned him to be His apostle did Paul come to faith and become the greatest Christian missionary. Jesus commissioned Paul as an apostle for preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, non-Jews. Now both Jews and Gentiles comprise the Roman church. Paul wrote the letter to introduce himself to the Roman church, which he has not yet met, to alert them about his planned visit, and to ask for their help in his missionary journey to Spain. Paul seizes the opportunity to rehearse the gospel for them. He especially focuses on the gospel’s relationship between Jews and Gentiles. In Romans 2:11, Paul has just stated, “For there is no favoritism with God.” Now, why would they think God is unfair? The Gentiles did not have the Bible’s Old Testament Mosaic Law. How could they know right and wrong, be accountable, and judged by God? The Jews had the Bible’s Old Testament Mosaic Law because of their special covenant relationship with God, and so they knew right and wrong. Still, maybe, because of their covenant status, they are exempt from accountability and God’s judgment?

**The Question**

How can God judge me when I don’t have His Bible?

**Bible Verse**

###### Romans 2:12-13 (CSB)

12All who sin without the law will also perish without the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.

13For the hearers of the law are not righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be justified.

**1. Only \_\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_ will not be condemned. (12-13)**

**Bible Verse**

###### Romans 2:14-15 (CSB)

14So, when Gentiles, who do not by nature have the law, do what the law demands, they are a law to themselves even though they do not have the law.

15They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts. Their consciences confirm this. Their competing thoughts either accuse or even excuse them

**2. Your \_\_\_\_ is your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (14-15)**

**Bible Verse**

###### Romans 2:16 (CSB)

16on the day when God judges what people have kept secret, according to my gospel through Christ Jesus.

**3. Your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cannot be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (16)**

**Acts 10:42–43** 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be the judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that through his name everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins.

**Hebrews 9:14** How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

**Hebrews 10:22** “Let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

**Jesus died for our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so don’t conceal them but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them to Him!**

**Psalm 103:3** “If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins [and he does], O LORD, who could stand?”

**Pray**

“Jesus, I confess I am a sinner. I deserve Your judgment of death and hell. But I believe You love me, came down for me, lived a perfect life, and shed Your blood and died on the cross for my sins. I also believe that God raised You from the dead for the forgiveness of my sins, to change me, and grant me everlasting life. Please forgive me, help me, and give me eternal life. I believe You are my Forgiver and God. I give my life to love, obey, and make much of You! In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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Look with mercy on the sins we have committed and in mercy make us feel them deeply, that our repentance may be sincere and our resolution steadfast of endeavoring against the commission of such in the future. Teach us to understand the sinfulness of our own hearts, and bring to our knowledge every fault of temper and every evil habit in which we have indulged to the discomfort of our fellow creatures, and the danger of our own souls. – Jane Austen

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