

Romans 2:12 – 3:20

A Heart With a Conscience

Welcome back and here we go! Today we will cover a few issues. Does God have favoritism? Is your conscience the Holy Spirit? Moral and Immoral sinners, blaspheming, the name of God and the need for justification. Other than that, not much! LOL. In all seriousness, this is a great opportunity to learn. Last week we covered man's utter depravity. Today it is our inability to save ourselves!

Romans 2:12 – 3:20

- 1) What stands out to you?

So again, there is a lot here. We will start at the beginning of the passage.

Romans 2:12-16

Here the word intimates that hearing is not enough. That it's not the identity but identification.

A Jew's identity is wrapped up in God. A Christian is wrapped up in *service* and *purpose*. It is not the hearing, but the doing.

So again, like last week, we see a person is justified by their action. I say *action* and not *actions*.

- 2) a) What is the action that makes you just with God?

This is a rhetorical question and once we hear the answer, it doesn't change. So, the better question is:

- 2) b) How does a person become justified without knowing Christ?

So there could be a lot of debate here. But the bottom line is without Christ and the Holy Spirit, we are not justified. Yet:

Verses 14-16

- 3) Is your conscience the Holy Spirit?

Inherently, I think most of us know right from wrong, yet when I excuse myself in wrongdoing, there are two camps to fall into:

- a) The Law of Liberty
- b) Conscience seared.

4) How do you know the difference?

I think the truth is --- that is where *grace* comes in as well as *edification*.

Romans 2:17-24

How indignant do you get at other people's sins? I mean really ----- what's wrong with these people? *Verse 20* is really us. Right? We are obviously very well equipped to counsel, correct and direct these people. Come on, the sin is obvious. They need your help!

Or does *Verse 24* come to surface. Moral sinners will always judge the person and not the sin. We say we don't excuse our own sin. Yet we become superior when others fail.....

Romans 3:1-4

5) Why are the Jewish people – Israel – important?

The final part of our section today talks about God's *righteous judgement*. You don't ever want to find yourself in the place where you are blaming God or excusing your sin so *righteousness will abound!*

Romans 3:7-8

Don't trample God's grace underfoot....

We will close with this:

Thought - Today: God knows your sin, you are not better than anyone else, you know right from wrong. The Spirit/Conscience will tell you. Don't excuse your sin or blame God. If you can't make the right choices, tell God. Ask for the Spirit's help....

We kind of closed with an affirmation of the Jewish people. Remember, we were grafted in.

Pray for Israel this week. And listen to your conscience.

Next week: *Romans 3:21 – 4:25*, Justified by Faith