

## ROMANS – FROM GUILT TO GLORY

### No More Walls!

### Romans 2:12-16

No matter what “religion” you look at in the world they will usually have 4 things in common:

- A sense of sin.
- A fear of judgment.
- An effort to make an atonement for sin.
- A hope that the atonement will appease the god they are worshipping.
  - How can this be, simply the fact that we all bear the image of God – **Genesis 1:27.**

Throughout Romans Paul addresses 2 audiences:

- Jews (members of the covenant and along with the covenant comes the Law, the path to live by).
- Gentiles (everyone else)
  - Now here is the issue, they are now worshipping together and one of the pieces of luggage that the Jew will bring to the table is the issue of the Law.

Paul uses that word “Law” in this section of Scripture 8 times.

Paul says let’s take the barrier between the Jew and the Gentile and destroy it.

- **Matthew 27:50-51** – not just the barrier between God and man but also between man and man.

In **Romans 2:12-13** Paul kind of burst the bubble of the Jews readers for possession of the Law does not make them righteous before God.

- It does not matter who has the Law but rather who are doers of the Law.
  - **James 2:14-17** kind of follows the pattern of a Paul Letter where James gives us theology (the study of God) and then an application.
    - A brother or sister without food and clothing.
    - Abraham offering Isaac.
    - Rahab when she received and protected the spies in Jericho.

In **Romans 2:14-15** Paul says that even though the Gentile did not have the Law, they have it written on their hearts (**now I wonder who put that there?**)

- The German philosopher Immanuel Kant said this, "*Two things fill the mind with ever increasing wonder and awe--the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me.*"
- 2 words come into play here “possession” and “practice”.
- Would God find more pleasure in a Gentile who did not possess the Law in written form but carried it out or a Jew who had possession of the Law but did not do it?

Jesus confronts the Jewish Leaders in this point in **Matthew 23**:

- Jesus lays out 8 “woes” for the Scribes and Pharisees.
  - Beatitudes found in Matthew 5.
  - “Blessed are - do this” and “Woe – stop doing this”

**Romans 2:16**

- **Hebrews 4:12.**