

The Law of God in the Mind of Man

Romans 1.16-2.16

Review

- We are now free from the Law; not “under” it.
- No longer under its rituals, ceremonies, offerings, and ordinances
- No longer under its weaknesses: it cannot forgive sin, and it cannot impart righteousness

- We have been freed from the Law by the work of Christ.
- This is explained in detail in Hebrews 7-10
- Where does that leave us, as far as our relationship to God?
- We don't want to think of the transition from Law to Grace, as a "change of mind" on God's part

- We want to understand grace as the only means to accomplish what God has always demanded from man
- The Law reflects God's "core values"

Romans 1.16-17

- Explain the power of the Gospel
- It has the power to save both Jew and Greek (Gentile)
- It reveals (uncovers) the righteousness of God

Romans 1.18-2.10

- Explain the universal condemnation of Jew and Greek
- Men are suppressing the truth, 1.18
- They know about God, because God has borne witness to Himself in men, 1.19

- Therefore, men have no excuse that God will accept, 1.20
- Paul explains the mechanics of their suppression of truth, 1.21-23
- And then explains some of the ways in which the wrath of God is being revealed (1.18): 1.24-28
- And explains why they deserve universal condemnation; 1.29-32

- 1.32 expands the condemnation: men don't simply commit sin; they consent to it in others
- So to judge those who sin, but have pleasure in that sin, is equally sinful, 2.1-2
- Let no one think he will escape God's judgment, 2.3

- Neither should anyone misunderstand God's patience, 2.4-5
- Every man will be judged by his deeds, 2.6-10

Romans 2.11-16

- Because God is impartial in His judgment: 2.11
- Those who have sinned without the Law shall perish without it
- And those who have the Law will be judged by (through) the Law

How can this be?

- Because hearing the Law doesn't help—doing the Law brings justification, 2.13
- And you don't need the Law of Moses, to know the Law of God, 2.14-16

Where does this leave us?

- All men have the Law of God in their conscience: the sense of right and wrong and justice are part of our creation, not simply the reflection of our culture
- Jews had the Law of God on stones

- Believers have the Law of God in their natures
- Jeremiah 31.31-33
- This must be more than the way the Law is in our consciences according to Romans 2
- Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.