

### III. The New Man – Need – Cont. (2:12 – 3:20)

#### **A. The Fall Revealed through Morality - Conscience (2:12 – 16)**

Paul now continues the last thought of the last section. He told us that God would judge everyone because of their actions and that He would not show partiality. He treats everyone the same.

So the question now is what about the knowledge of right and wrong?

God's standard of righteousness is His own holiness. This is infinite in nature and completely contrary to man.

Yet there are several things in man's life that at least reflects God's holiness:

- The Law
- The Conscience

Both of these are high standards. Every person knows when he does wrong. Every person has hidden this knowledge at some time.

He says that it is not the hearers but the doers. Knowledge alone is not enough. The action must also be present.

If man could perfectly keep His conscience pure or the Law perfectly, then we would say, "Wow – there is something different inside that guy!" You see the actions would not produce justification but would reveal the condition.

In this case, every man is revealed to have participated in the Fall. When he stands before God, his own secret conscience will condemn him.

#### **B. The Fall Revealed through Morality - Judaism (2:17 – 3:20)**

##### **1. The keeping of the law is tainted by the fall (2:17 – 24)**

You may claim to keep the law perfectly. You may can list details regarding how well you do. However, this means you actually lower the law. For you to keep it, it must be lowered to your level.



This becomes clear from the fact that the unsaved are blaspheming God as a result of your actions.

The greatest Evangelical command was given by Christ in John 13. "They will know you by your love."

If we arrogantly keep the Law, shove it in the face of all we reveal our fall.

The man in the suit of armor may try to be righteous but it will be dripping with evil.



## 2. True Judaism is an issue of what's on the inside. (2:25 – 29)

Circumcision is the action of removing flesh for the purpose of cleanliness. In Judaism, God required the Jews to be circumcised as a sign (Rom 4:11)

Here Paul says the circumcision needed is a removing of the unclean flesh of the heart. He points us once again to the condition inside the suit of armor. The evil inside needs to be removed.

If a suit of armor produces righteousness then even if it is not a Jewish suit, it would stand in judgment of the Jewish suit that followed the ordinances but produced evil.

## 3. Is there any advantage to the Jewish race? (3:1- 8)

Paul once again enters into a didactic conversation where he asks questions and then provides the answer. In this case, he asks if there is any advantage to being Jewish.

The answer is clearly yes! God had to choose some family of earth to:

- Give His revelation
- Preserve for a means of providing the redeemer
- To reveal man's lost condition

Whichever family God chooses will experience many blessings. They come to know God sooner and have the opportunity to fellowship closely with Him.

They are truly blessed!

God is faithful even if we are unfaithful. – NOW Paul will bring an argument that he will refer to again. Should we SIN to help God out? (Rom 6:1)

Paul's answer: BY NO MEANS! To say that would be truly wrong (vs. 8) and I would agree with the condemnation those who claim I am saying that! However, Paul was not saying this.

God is not going to overlook unrighteousness. He is righteous to inflict wrath.

## 4. Jews have the same heart condition (3:9 – 19)

However, Jews are just as unrighteous as anyone who deserves death.

## 5. The Law WILL NOT provide justification (3:20)

It's not a matter of cannot but because of the heart condition – it will not. We must find another source for justification.

*"For by the works of the law no HUMAN BEING will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin." Vs.20*

The Law has a purpose. To reveal our fallen condition before a righteous judge.

### C. All of us share the same condition

- We must not lie to ourselves and think that we can appease our conscience to have a right relationship with God.
- We must not lie to ourselves and think that we can appease God by ceremonial or rule keeping.
- We have a sin nature and we need God's solution for dealing with it. No matter who we are!