

“Possession Is Not Even 1/10 of Salvation”

Romans 2:12-24

October 25, 2020

- Remember the context: The Final Judgment.
- Remember the criteria of the Final Judgment: Good works done as *believers*.

I. Merely Possessing /Hearing the Law will not Acquit You on Judgment Day (vs. 12-16)

- A. Only the *doers* of the Law will be acquitted at the judgment; having/hearing the Law provides no advantage in and of itself.
- B. Paul’s proof: New Covenant Gentile Believers who obey God’s Law which is now written on their heart, though they never possessed by birthright.

Vs. 14 is not: *For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature [or, instinctively] do what the law requires...*

(Romans 3:10–12 - ¹⁰ as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God. ¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”)

(Romans 14:23b - ...and whatever is not from faith is sin.)

Vs. 14 is: *For when Gentiles, who do not have the law by nature, do what the law requires...*

(Jeremiah 31:33 - For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.)

II. Being a (Hypocritical) Teacher of the Law will not Acquit You on Judgment Day (vs. 17-24)

- A. Self-righteous Jews set themselves up as teachers to the Gentiles even though they also broke God’s law.
- B. This hypocrisy would condemn them on the last day.

Application: James 1:22–25 - ²² *But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. ²⁵ But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.*