

Reality for the Self-Righteous

Part 4

Romans 2:12–15

Introduction: Review

- I. The reality of the wrath of God is a real problem for the self-righteous.
- II. The reality of the impartiality of God is a real problem for the self-righteous.
- III. The reality of the Law of God is a real problem for the self-righteous.
- IV. The reality of the omniscience of God is a real problem for the self-righteous.

Prerequisite truths to better understand the self-righteous problem with the Law of God

The prerequisite concerning the self-righteous view of his own perfection.

Luke 18:11 “The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. **12** ‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’

Luke 18:20 “You know the commandments, ‘DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.’ ” **21** And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.”

Philippians 3:5 circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; **6** as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

All thought they had done enough to be right with God.

The prerequisite truth concerning universal nature of sin. Romans 3:23

James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

“A sinner in the Bible definition, is any being who is less perfect than God.” Barnhouse.

Illustration of the exclusive perfect nature of God’s righteousness. From Barnhouse

Illustration of the unattainable nature of God’s standard of righteousness. From Barnhouse

The prerequisite truth concerning the broader context of Romans 2:12–16.

III. The Reality of the Law of God is a is a problem for the self-righteous. 2:12–15

A. Mere possession of the Law is not beneficial it is detrimental. 2:12

1. Sinners who are not under the law with perish.

Matthew 9:14–17. Meaning of perish.

Perish does not mean to have a cessation of existence but to exist in a ruined state

Matthew 10:28; 25:46; 13:42

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2. Sinners who are under the Law will be judged.

Deuteronomy 27:26 ‘Cursed is he who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.’
And all the people shall say, ‘Amen.’

Luke 12:47 “And that slave who knew his master’s will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes, **48** but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

B. God’s judgement of those who are not under the law vindicates his judgment upon those who have the Law.

1. Obedience to the Law is a universal requirement regardless of one’s possession of the Law.
2. The work of the Law upon the hearts of those who do not have the Law. 2:14–15.
 - a. *The works of the Law become one’s law.* 2:14
 - b. *The works of the Law proven by conduct.* 2:15
 - c. *The works of the Law proven by conscience.* 2:15
 - d. *The works of the Law proven by contemplation.* 2:15
3. Biblical examples of the work of the Law upon the hearts of those who did not have the Law.

Conclusion:

What is the lowest common denominator between the Law and what we have today?

What is the lowest common denominator of the need of all humanity?
Romans 10:1–13