

<sup>12</sup>For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. <sup>13</sup>For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. <sup>14</sup>For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. <sup>15</sup>They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them <sup>16</sup>on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus. <sup>17</sup>But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God <sup>18</sup>and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; <sup>19</sup>and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, <sup>20</sup>an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— <sup>21</sup>you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? <sup>22</sup>You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? <sup>23</sup>You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. <sup>24</sup>For, as it is written, “The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.”

#### *Four Resolutions about God's Word*

**#1) I will listen to what it says about my NEED (Vss.12&13)**

**#2) I will place myself UNDER it and not OVER it (Vs.12)**

**#3) I will hear what it says about my HEARING (Vss. 16-24)**

**#4) I will not stop at LISTENING (Vs.17)**

## Small Group Questions

### Getting Started

1. Paul has been telling us about judgment (Vss. 1-11). He now links judgment with how people have treated God's word (vss.12-29).

a) In a conversation, what are signs a person isn't listening to you?

b) Finish these statements: *words are ways people* \_\_\_\_\_ & *words are ways God* \_\_\_\_\_.

### Digging Deeper (Read Romans 2:12-24)

2. Paul uses the word "law" throughout this chapter. How is the word "law" used in the Bible? What is the relationship of "law" with the rest of the Bible?

3. *Read verse 12.* The first part of verse 12 can be challenging for people today. What questions does it raise? Discuss how Paul addresses your questions in verses 14-16.

4. The second part of verse 12 was controversial to some religious Jews in Paul's day.

a) Why might it have been controversial?

b) What assumptions does Paul address? Use verses 17-24 to help.

5. *Read verse 13.* In verse 13, some felt *just* hearing God's law made one righteous.

a) What are some examples of being entrusted with special information because they were found worthy enough to receive it? How could this be like what Paul is addressing?

b) What are some examples of people who think *just having information* makes them valuable and worthy? How could this be like what Paul is addressing?

6. On Sunday we were challenged with four resolutions about the Bible listed below. Explain each point and the relevance for us.

◆ I will listen to what it says about my \_\_\_\_\_.

◆ I will place myself \_\_\_\_\_ it and not \_\_\_\_\_.

◆ I will hear what it says about my \_\_\_\_\_.

◆ I will not stop at \_\_\_\_\_.

### Making It Real

7. Which one of the four resolutions do you feel led to focus more prayer on and attention to?

#### Resources

Romans: *Righteousness from Heaven* | R. Kent Hughes. | [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org) | [www.preceptaustin.org](http://www.preceptaustin.org)