

Hidden Secrets

Romans 2:16-3:8

Legalism cannot prevent my heart from sinning. It can only seek to hide that sin.

This judgment will be revealed on the day when God, through Jesus the Messiah, judges the hidden secrets of people's hearts. And their response to the gospel I preach will be the standard of judgment used in that day.

Romans 2:16

I. Unattractive Light

Now, you claim to be a Jew because you lean upon your trust in the law and boast in your relationship with God. And you claim to know the will of God, and to have the moral high ground because you've been taught the law of Moses. You are also confident that you are a qualified guide to those who are "blind," a shining light to those who live in darkness. You are confident that you are a true teacher of the foolish and immature, all because you have the treasury of truth and knowledge in the law of Moses. So let me ask you this: Why don't you practice what you preach? You preach, "Don't steal!" but are you a thief?

Romans 2:17-21

Even though you boast in the law, you dishonor God, the Lawgiver, when you break it! For your actions seem to fulfill what is written: "God's precious name is cursed among the nations because of you."

Romans 2:23,24

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II. Inner Baptism

So what if you have been baptized? So what if you are a church member? This only counts for anything if there has been a real change in your life, if your heart has been truly affected. Don't you know that you are not a Christian if you are only one externally, that real Christianity is not about having confidence in external things? No, a Christian is someone who is a Christian inside; what matters is inner baptism, a heart-membership of God's people. And this is a supernatural work, not a human one.

Romans 2:25-29

III. Proven Faithful

What if some were unfaithful to their divine calling? Does their unbelief weaken God's faithfulness? Absolutely not! God will always be proven faithful and true to His word, while people are proven to be liars. This will fulfill what was written in the Scriptures: Your words will always be vindicated and you will rise victorious when you are being tried by your critics!

Romans 3:3-4

What if our wrong shows how right God is? Doesn't our bad serve the purpose of making God look good? (Of course, I'm only speaking from a human viewpoint.) Would that infer that God is unfair when He displays His anger against wrongdoing? Absolutely not! For if that were the case, how could God be the righteous judge of all the earth?

Romans 3:5-6

So, if my lie brings into sharp contrast the brightness of God's truth, and if my lie accentuates His glory, then why should I be condemned as a sinner? Is it proper for us to sin, just so we can be forgiven? May it never be! Yet there are some who slander us and claim that is what we teach. They deserve to be condemned for even saying it!

Romans 3:7-8