

The Secrets of Men

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 2:1-16.

B. If a man does not need to be saved, then there is nothing Jesus can do for a person because He says that He came to seek and save the lost.

C. To be saved one must realize that he is lost.

II. Men suppress the truth about God that they know.

A. There is knowledge of God, but men refuse to acknowledge this.

B. Truth that is suppressed results in complexes.

III. We often feel that we should not be bothered because others do worse, but by the same standard we judge, we are judged.

A. The principles of God's judgment of man.

1. According to truth.

a. God sees us exactly as we are.

b. The truth is that we do not want to know the truth.

c. God is patient with us, so that we can see this delusion.

2. According to works.

a. The dead reveals the heart.

b. The test for the doer of good is whether he accepts Christ.

3. Without partiality.

a. The man who does not think he has any need is by far the worst. (Revelation 3)

b. God treats the respectable sinner the same as the notorious one.

4. According to opportunity.

a. Men are continually accusing God of being unjust because of condemning some for not hearing Christ.

b. However, men are condemned for disobeying truth that they already know.

- c. Everyone--even pagans--have a basic form of the law written on their hearts.
5. According to the gospel and the secrets of the heart.
- a. God knows our hearts now.
 - b. There will come a day when He will judge them.
 - c. In the gospel, there is a righteousness we can obtain outside of ourselves--this is why God tells us about judgment.
 - d. God tells us of our hopelessness so that we might see our hope in Jesus Christ.

Application questions:

1. What are some ways that people deny their own "lost-ness?"

2. Which principle of God's judgment of man stands out to you?

3. Explain why the gospel stands out as an important principle of judgment—why is it important that righteousness be obtained outside of us?
