



<sup>11</sup> For God shows no partiality. <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. (ESV – *parenthesis added*).

What does the parenthesis do?

- Elaborates on what Paul has been saying in the general statement
- Anticipates arguments from both Jew and Gentile

Verse 13:

The Jews believed that they had no need for this preaching about Jesus of Nazareth because they had heard the law and were, therefore, God's chosen people, in a peculiar relationship to Him, and declared righteous.

If you get caught jay walking will you be declared innocent because you say you knew the law regarding jay walking?

Hearers, today, might be thought of as readers? Why?

The principle is the *doers* of the law will be justified. Why?

Verses 14 & 15:

Is it right that a man should be condemned by a law he's never heard? Should he be condemned at all?

What does 'they are a law to themselves mean'?

- They have a moral consciousness, another kind of law, not the law of Moses
- Because of this moral consciousness they are responsible

This does not mean they are automatically justified and are under no condemnation. Why?

- 'They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts'
  - Not the law of Moses, but that which it is designed to produce
  - "Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires" (v. 14)
  - The pagans have a moral sense and so have ideas about murder, robbery, and theft (1:32)
  - These pagans try to maintain a certain moral standard and moral conception
- 'Their conscience also bears witness'
  - All people have it, no matter how primitive, unintelligent, and unenlightened
  - It condemns us when we are doing wrong
  - Not a perfect instrument and it can vary during a man's life (Acts 23:1)
  - The conscience provides a standard by which they might be judged
- 'Their conflicting thoughts (reasonings) accuse or even excuse them'
  - They argue among themselves over whether something is right or wrong
  - They debate among themselves as to whether what a certain man has done is right or not
  - A man will condemn a thing in another and defend it when he has done it