

# ROM. 2 THE SECRETS OF MEN

by Robert Hatfield

Romans 2 provides insight about the day of judgment. Paul establishes that God is longsuffering (Rom. 2:4) and just (2:6, 11) in His judgments. The inspired apostle looks to the past and notes that the Jews and Gentiles who did not live under the Law of Christ will not be judged by the New Testament, but by the laws under which they lived (see Rom. 2:1-16). In verse 16, Paul brings forth a sobering thought:

In the day when **God shall judge the secrets of men** by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.  
(Rom. 2:16, emp. mine, RH)

The Greek word that is translated “secrets” refers to that which is concealed, private and inwardly hidden.

Jesus’ teaching emphasizes that God is omniscient. He said, “For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known” (Luke 12:2). In Luke 12:4 Jesus warned not to fear one who may kill the physical body, but to fear the One who has the power to destroy the soul in hell!

The day of judgment will be a day in which all is brought to the surface. God will “bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts” (1 Cor. 4:5). It does not take much effort to keep secrets from other people. However, Paul told Timothy that every action will be known on the day of judgment (1 Tim. 5:24). Men often judge unrighteous judgment, according to appearance alone (cf. John 7:24), but the Judge of all mankind will not make such mistakes, for He sees the outward actions of man as well as man’s inward thoughts; He sees the whole man. Therefore, our Father has a unique perspective on the lives of each individual who ever has lived and ever will live.

The Bible is clearly portrayed as the inspired Word of God in its ability to discern the man’s heart. The familiar words of Hebrews 4:12 state:

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and **is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart** (Heb. 4:12, emp. mine, RH).

Hebrews 4:13 then adds that every creature is manifest in God’s sight, because all things are opened before His ever-watching eyes. God reminded Jeremiah that He is closely acquainted with all that men do; no one can hide themselves from His sight (Jer. 23:23-24).

Christians have “renounced the hidden things of dishonesty” (2 Cor. 4:2); they have nothing to hide. Rather than lurking in the darkness of sin, Christians are busy walking in the light and letting that light shine to the lost (1 John 1:7; Matt. 5:14-16).

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