

Romans 2:12

No non-believer will escape judgment (God's Justice). It doesn't matter if you sinned out of ignorance, or on purpose. Because it is not your obedience that matters, it's Christ's obedience on your behalf, that matters. Jump to Romans 3:10 (Paul quotes Psalm 14:1-3/53:1-3)

- Notice: "There is" no God ("There is" is added incorrectly as helper words.)

Another great example is the rich young ruler: "What good thing must I do (what should my behavior be) to be saved?" (Matthew 19:16-22). As a matter of fact all of our good works (done without Christ) are but "filthy rags" in God's eyes, (Isaiah 64:6 but verses 1-7 are all powerful)

Romans 2:13-16: Is one long () parenthesis": Even those who understand God's plan of behavior and try to follow it and those who don't know God's plan of behavior but act in a morally correct manner will be judged according to their having or not having a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Romans 2:17-24: This is a strong warning to hypocrites! Those who teach, preach and evangelize with their "head" knowledge. Those who are Biblically smart but not spiritually wise.

Romans 2:25-29: You are perfect in God's eyes, both Jew and non-Jew, if you "keep", "keep" and "fulfill" (verses 25, 26, 27 respectively) the law. In other words, if you completely walk this earth as perfect as Jesus did! Or if your (verse 29) "heart" is in the "Spirit" (sealed with the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ).

Those are the ONLY two ways anyone can walk in this life.

Romans 3:1-2: the "oracles" of God: The Bible, God's Instruction Manual, God's Autobiography, God's Holy Word to us, God's Guide to salvation, God's complete truth in written form,

God gave that to Israel first. They were set apart as His nation of priests (look at Exodus 19:6)

Romans 3:3-8: Paul is confronting the Jews, as a Jew himself, to warn them to recognize that they are not being a nation of priests. And that they will be responsible for God's wrath and judgement (verses 5, 6, 8).

But on the other hand! →

Romans 3:8: On the other hand Paul is saying; "yes we ¹¹ are no longer slaves to the Law because we are saved by Grace. But that is not a license to "break the Law". - The "Law" (10 Commandments) and the fellowship festivals were perfect in God's plan for all. But impossible to keep. Paul is saying purposely breaking the Law because we are saved by Grace is disrespecting God. (And that leads to 7)

Romans 3:9-19: That, apart from those saved by grace, there is no one that is righteous in God's sight; not the Law keeping person, not the good person, not the bad person, not the ignorant person, not the religious leaders of the day, not anyone.

Verse 18: "fear" of God does not mean what it says. But it can be described as a: fully, holy respect and admiration of God by our worship of Him with our whole heart, mind, and soul. (Which is impossible because the "old" sin nature continues to battle in us, albeit losing power as we mature in Christ.

Romans 3:20 look closely at this. Those who live a good life obeying the 10 Commandments, by their own strength will be condemned by the Law. The Law was given to Israel to show them God's high expectations for holiness. It was designed to be a mirror in which we can see how miserably we fail to achieve God's standard. **IT WAS IMPLEMENTED TO GET ISRAEL TO CRY OUT TO GOD FOR A SAVIOR, A SAVIOR WHO WOULD SAVE THEM FROM THE IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP LAW!** To show that no human can please God.

Read Mark 10:17-22 (The Rich Young Ruler). "TAKE up your cross and follow Me."

Romans 3:21-22: (up to) "on all who believe." (paraphrasing: But God came to the rescue.) What does it mean? to take up our cross? explanation.

Romans 3:23-25 No one is righteous outside of faith in the shed blood of Jesus on our behalf (as a propitiation)

Romans 3:26: God Himself justifies all who have faith in Jesus Christ. Again, this "faith" has to be will all of ones heart, mind and soul. Willing to literally bet your life on it!

Romans 3:27-30 : Paul repeats; all (both Jew and non-Jew) are saved by faith in the finished work of the cross. (12)

Explanation of the finished work of the cross: After the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, when sin entered man, man was removed from God's presence. They could no longer physically be in the presence of God because a perfect, pure, and holy God can not be in the presence of sin-filled man.

The only way to be perfect enough to be in the presence of God would be to live a perfect life and obey all of God's expectations. So God gave Moses 10 Commandments and many Levitical laws to live by. Of course the "sin nature" in man made that impossible to accomplish. After all, one single slip up, one single lie in the course of a life time would disqualify that person from being in the presence of God. The penalty being cursed by God, to be rejected by God and hung on a tree.

Enter God's salvation plan: A perfect Man, born without sin nature in His blood, who can live a perfect and sin free life, althwhile being tempted by every possible temptation that a person can have, and be willing to let God take out His wrath upon Himself, on our behalf, would satisfy the requirement of perfection. And the death of this Man, in the place of the sinful man, would bring about salvation for sinful man.

This is the finished work of the cross. Jesus satisfied all the requirements needed to be restored to God the Father. And all who fully believe in this atonement are now seen by God as perfect.

Romans 3:31 The above being said, we are no longer trying to win a losing battle by keeping the Law, we are now thankfully and joyfully trying to live a life obedient to all that God has spoken in His Holy Word. Out of gratitude not obligation!

Romans 4:1-3 Salvation prior to the Cross of Jesus Christ:

We had just seen how our faith in the finished work of the cross resulted in us being righteous in God's eyes. But what about those who lived prior to the crucifixion? Just like we have faith in the finished work of the cross and look back to Jesus as our Saviour, the Old Testament saints looked forward to a Saviour. The Saviour that God had promised in the Garden minutes after the fall of Adam. (Genesis 3:15).

Their faith that God would provide a Saviour and their faith in living a life by doing the best they could (almost all fell short) according to what God instructed them to do, got their souls in to the Paradise side of Sheol, which was in the heart of the earth. And when Jesus had finished His work on the cross, He spent 3 days and 3 nights there with them. When He rose again on the 3rd day, the souls of all the faithful went with Him. (side note: their, and our, physical bodies will be made new and perfect (incorruptable) at the same time when we are reunited with our new physical body. (Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-55).

Romans 4:4: "him who works" speaks to those who under their own power "work" to please God.

Romans 4:5-8: King David is prophesying about the blessed ones of the future (us) who will be blessed with salvation purely by our "believing on Him". That our faith will lead to our "lawless deeds being forgiven", our "sins being covered," to "whom the LORD shall not imput sin," (notice "LORD", all capitals in the Old Testament is Jehova, the Son of God, the pre-incarnet Jesus Christ).

Romans 4:9-12: Paul is preaching to the Kingdom Jew, the Messianic Jew, the Christian and the converts. Paul is telling them that religious ceremonies are not binding. Here he uses Abraham as an example. Abraham was counted as righteous long before circumcision was required. All those that God counted as righteous prior to Abraham also had never been circumcised.