

# According to the Light

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans.

B. The gospel is what men and women everywhere desperately need.

1. In the gospel, God has found a way to condemn our sin and destroy it without destroying us.

2. In the gospel, God transforms us from selfish people to loving, peaceful and joyful people.

3. Finally, in the gospel we have an amazing eternal destiny, but amazingly, people refuse it.

4. The gospel can never be accepted until they come to a place of hopelessness and helplessness.

C. Paul has been tracing people that receive the gospel.

1. People who flaunt morality but encourage disobedience.

2. The self-righteous moralist but inwardly wicked person.

3. The unenlightened pagan. Those who have not heard of the gospel.

4. The religious person.

D. Man is universally declared unrighteous. (Romans 2:2-13)

## II. The unenlightened pagan—those who do not know.

A. God's answer is that the unknowing pagan will be judged by what they do know—according to light.

B. People perish, not because of what they did not know, but because of what they did not do.

C. If one could be saved by the law, then pagans could be saved too because the law is in their hearts—all men are subject to judgment because they do have truth in their hearts.

D. A reign of terror only ensues when the conscience is the only governing authority.

## III. The religious person.

A. There is a grave danger for the person thinking they know enough.

B. What the Jews leaned on as their advantage:

1. The Jews relied on possessing the law. They took pride in being instructed by the law and wrongly being dependent upon it. They thought they were a guide to the blind, a light unto the dark, etc.
2. People had been turned away from God because of them.
3. This is also true of American Christianity.

C. A man is a Jew only if he is one inwardly—true circumcision is of the heart.

D. Every man is lost without Jesus Christ—only faith brings the gift of righteousness to those who do not deserve it and cannot have it.

**Application questions:**

1. Why is the conscience not good enough to determine truth by itself?

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2. What danger does the religious person face?

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3. How would you respond to someone who asks, “What about those who have never heard the gospel?” in light of the message?

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