

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

The Seven Editions of God's Word

Romans 2:6-16

1 At the Judgment many may say, “I didn’t believe in God because nobody witnessed to me.” The implication is, “It’s the Christians I knew who were at fault for not telling me.” God may, very well, hold us Christians to account for being too ashamed of Him to share our faith with others. But, that’s not a good excuse for the unbeliever!

In Romans, Chapter 2, verses 6 through 16, it reads, 2 God “will give to each person according to what he has done.” To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism. 3

All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be

judged by the law. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. 4

(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares. 5

God's word, His revelation, was written at least seven different ways for everyone to pick up on.

I. It was Written in Nature ⁶

The first revelation was written in nature. Psalm, Chapter 19, verse 1, says, **The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.**

A few years ago I went to a documentary movie at Great America about the majesty of nature. It started in Venice, Italy; the city in the ocean. The camera zeroed in on a plant. It then asked us to imagine the plant being magnified ten times in a microscope. This magnification was repeated several times until we were exploring the inner structure of the atom. Then, from Venice the distance was visualized at ten time intervals, as though viewing it through a telescope on a spaceship. We saw the earth, then the solar system, then the Milky Way galaxy, then several galaxies, until the galaxies looked like white pin points on a black piece of paper. Then, gradually, the paper became white with so many white pin points you could hardly

see the black background. The narrator guessed billions of galaxies must be out there!

I thought, how great our God is. He created all of this in just one day, Creation Day Four, by the awesomeness of His voice. ¹ ⁷ Nature, indeed, shows God's absolute majesty. ⁸ The universe is so big we can't even imagine it. And yet, ⁹ God is bigger than His universe!

God has revealed Himself in nature. There is enough evidence in nature to believe in God. Our secular society just chooses not to.

II. It was Written in Conscience ¹⁰

The second revelation was written in conscience. God simply placed an awareness of Him in the consciousness of each of us. Let me repeat verses 14 and 15 of our scripture passage, **Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves,**

¹ Genesis 1:14-19.

even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.

11 God is just, but He is also fair. **12** He doesn't discriminate, but plants a basic knowledge of right and wrong in everyone. So, even without the specific knowledge of who God is, you know when you are doing right or wrong. In addition to this, before the Law of Moses was written, God spoke directly to various people. We know of Him talking directly to the patriarch Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

III. It was Written on Tablets of Stone **13**

The third revelation we know about was written on tablets of stone. In Exodus, Chapter 24, verse 12, it says, **The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and commands I have written for their instruction."**

14 This was the first written word of God, The Law of Moses. Moses climbed Mount Sinai and received the Ten Commandments written by the finger of God. 15 These tablets, the Ten Commandments, became the basis for Jewish society and individual life.

16 What was the result of this revelation? 17 If everyone could obey these laws perfectly they could be saved. However 18, nobody did – except the Lord Jesus! 2 So what about the rest of us? Romans, Chapter 3, verse 23, says it all, 21 . . . all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

IV. It was Written into the Lord Jesus – the Living Word 20

The fourth revelation was written into the Lord Jesus, the Living Word. 21 John, Chapter 1, verses 1 and 14 read, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . The Word

² Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin.

became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The term “word” here means, in the original language ³, the verbal expression of an idea. We get our English word “logical” from this term. What this scripture is teaching us is ²² that Lord Jesus is the expression of the Father like a spoken word is the expression of the thought it represents!

Hebrews, Chapter 1, verses 1 through 4, is an expansion of this concept, ²³ **In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty**

³ λόγος.

in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

24 Lord Jesus is God in the flesh. He is the full representation of God's word and truth in a human life. ⁴ 25 He lived the life God designed for you to live perfectly; displaying the fact that it could be done! 26 Lord Jesus, in what He said and the way He lived, was the Living Word! 27 When Jesus went to the cross, He paid the price for your sins so you could live forever with Him in heaven. 28 When you surrender your life to Him, you acknowledge that you're not good enough to get to heaven on your own. You are trusting Lord Jesus to do it for you. 29 Out of gratitude for His salvation, you should now desire to live your life to please Him!

⁴ John 14:6 - Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

V. It is Written in the Bible ³⁰

The fifth revelation was written in the Bible. In Romans, Chapter 15, verse 4 ³¹ it reads, **For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.** ³² And in Hebrews, Chapter 4, verse 12, it says, **For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.**

³³ **The Bible is the way God makes Himself known to you today.** ³⁴ **It has everything He wants you to know. The Bible will convict you of your sin and show you how to live victoriously!**

VI. It is Written on Your Heart ³⁵

The sixth revelation is written on your heart. Hebrews, Chapter 8, verse 10 declares, ³⁶ **This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.**

³⁷ **How does it get written on your heart? This is done through studying and meditating on God's written word. Let me share a four step process ³⁸ to help you do this.**

³⁹ **Step one is to read the word regularly. Then ⁴⁰, study what the word is saying. Third ⁴¹, memorize the portions that are meaningful to you. Finally ⁴², meditate on it; turn it over and over in your mind to discover how it would apply to your life, until it becomes a part of your heart!**

VII. It is Written into You & Me ⁴³

The last revelation I want to present today is that it is written into you and me. In Second Corinthians, Chapter 3, verses 2 and 3 ⁴⁴, it says, **You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.**

⁴⁵ The transformed Christian life is the best witness you could have to others. **Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.** ⁵ ⁴⁶ You show, in practical ways, the power of God's life when you live it out personally! ⁶

⁵ Romans 12:2.

⁶ James 1:22 - Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James, Chapter 2, verses 14 through 18 ⁴⁷, apply describes what I am presenting to you here, **What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.**

God loves you so much He was willing to reveal Himself to you in so many ways! Reveal what He has shown to you to everyone that you know!

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