

Without excuse!

The three things below leave us without excuse before God. If you hire an honest lawyer and your case is obviously without hope, he would tell you so, would he not? That is exactly what God does in the first three chapters of the epistle to the Romans in the Holy Scriptures, the Bible.

Three things that accuse us!

Outward view - the universe

Unless blind, the things that are made and that we see with our eyes in the heavens, on the earth around us leave us without excuse *for the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse* (see Romans 1:20). Hence, our God given intelligence and our perception of the universe around us communicate to our spirits the fact that there is an Almighty God even if invisible!

Inward view - the conscience

Human beings, marvel of God's creation, discern between good and evil. In their actual moral degradation, calling good evil and evil good, they still perceive a difference (Isaiah 5:20). They deny the base of sound moral judgment (that is what God calls good or evil) but still distinguish these. The child avoids his parents or looks at the ground when he is conscious of having done something bad. Even without disobeying an actual commandment, should he break a window, he has a bad conscience. Maybe he will confess his wrong doing and recover a good conscience, or hide it and carry it until he becomes insensitive to it. He could then accumulate other hidden misdeeds and ultimately lose the sensitivity of his conscience. The Bible speaks of a seared conscience (1 Timothy 4:2), one that has lost total sensitivity. That's where many are today!

A reference for good and evil - the law of God

Commandments, those of God and even those of men, are a reference for our conscience. The outlaw hides from the police. Unless you are hardened to the core, just like the child above, any disobedience to the commandments makes us uncomfortable. But the commandments of God place us in a most perilous position, infinitely more serious one than for breaking human laws. None, save the Lord Jesus Christ, have been able to satisfy the moral claims of the law; it declares us all guilty! And the consequence thereof is eternal punishment whether you believe it or not!

These three things make for *every mouth to be stopped*, not a word available for our defence, *and all the world found guilty before God*, the only just judge (see Romans 3:19)! But one last pleading is afforded to us, perhaps the last one you will hear, as I present the divine solution to all this.

Declared righteous

Though we all are without excuse, God in his compassion and his great love towards us has undertaken to deliver us from our great guiltiness towards him. Since we have all sinned and are guilty, God in his unspeakable grace, because of his great love for us, offers free reconciliation to himself through the death of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God freely justifies any or all guilty sinners who believe in the work of his Son for us on the cross as it is written; *being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ...through faith in his blood* (Romans 3:24). This offer is final, irrevocable, and without appeal. It would be terribly foolish of you and more than inexcusable not to avail yourself of it!

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