

## Perishing With or Without the Law

### A Study of the Book of Romans

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**Key Truth:** The Law of God will not save those who disregard it.

Paul continues highlighting the utter depravity of sinful man, and introduces the Law as a mitigating factor between Jews and Gentiles. Even though Jews and Gentiles are equally sinners, there is a difference between the two, and that difference has to do with the Law of Moses (i.e., 10 Commandments). Jews and Gentiles have a different relationship to the Law: Jews received it and were taught in it. Gentiles had no direct revelation from God with respect to the Law. However, both groups were sinners and disregarded God's Law in some way, either out of neglect or out of ignorance. The Law is instrumental in the salvation of sinners, but it also plays a part in the condemnation of sinners. The difference is how we respond to the Law, whether it's written on stone tablets, or written on our hearts.

## DISCUSS

Read **Romans 2:12-24** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled "**Perishing With or Without the Law.**"

## DIG IN

### 1. Hearing but not Doing the Law (Romans 2:12-16)

In what ways is it possible to have the Law of God but still perish?

In what ways had the Jews heard God's Law?

Why is it necessary both to hear and to do God's Law (see James 1:22-24)?

When Paul says that it is "the doers of the law who will be justified," is he teaching that we are justified by our works? Why or why not?

In what ways do unbelievers demonstrate that the moral law is written on their hearts through their conscience?

### 2. Knowing but not Following the Law (Romans 2:17-24)

In what ways is it possible to be taught the Word of God and even teach it, but not to have truly learned it? Give examples.

In what ways is boasting about God's Law but not following it blasphemy against God?

In what ways may Christians hear the gospel yet not be changed by it? Why is this so damaging?

What are ways we can foster a heart that hears God's Word and be changed by it?

## DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?