

Title: No Excuses – Romans 2 9-16

Read:

⁹⁻¹¹If you go against the grain, you get splinters, regardless of which neighborhood you're from, what your parents taught you, what schools you attended. But if you embrace the way God does things, there are wonderful payoffs, again without regard to where you are from or how you were brought up. Being a Jew won't give you an automatic stamp of approval. God pays no attention to what others say (or what you think) about you. He makes up his own mind. ¹²⁻¹³If you sin without knowing what you're doing, God takes that into account. But if you sin knowing full well what you're doing, that's a different story entirely. Merely hearing God's law is a waste of your time if you don't do what he commands. Doing, not hearing, is what makes the difference with God. ¹⁴⁻¹⁶When outsiders who have never heard of God's law follow it more or less by instinct, they confirm its truth by their obedience. They show that God's law is not something alien, imposed on us from without, but woven into the very fabric of our creation. There is something deep within them that echoes God's yes and no, right and wrong. Their response to God's yes and no will become public knowledge on the day God makes his final decision about every man and woman. The Message from God that I proclaim through Jesus Christ takes into account all these differences.

Think:

Break the rules in school and you can expect to get disciplined, cant you? Why? Well because you know the rules. Does your school have uniform? Well you know that you have to wear a certain type of uniform, turn up not wearing it and you can expect to be sent home. When you get given a deadline at college for an report you know if it's turned in late you will be for the high jump. These are ways of behaving they are written down and you know about them. But you school or college doesn't have a rule for every event do they. They don't have rules that say don't kill anyone, don't burn the buildings down, don't ride you motorbike up the hallway. No these are just things you know aren't they, because there are something's that we just know without being told. Gods no different there are some things he expects of us and he has written them down in his Bible for us to know. But as we get to know God more we shouldn't use the excuse, "I hadn't read that bit, I didn't know." We should say that because we know the basic anyway. We know in our hearts what is right and what is wrong. God's really nice and he might cut us some slack but he also knows that we know better.

Pray:

Father thank you for cutting me some slack when I have knowingly done something that I know you would prefer me not to do. Amen

Action:

What are you doing in your life right now that you know God would rather you didn't do? Guess what? You can choose to stop it. Bye.