

QUESTION: Where does it say in the Bible that God's law is put in our hearts by Him, even before we've accepted Christ?

ANSWER: Man was originally created in the image of God, and even though that image is now warped and damaged by sin, we still have **an instinctive knowledge of the true God**, and of right and wrong ("His law written in our hearts", Romans 2:15). For the unsaved, I do not see that the Bible says that God PUTS His law in their hearts, so much as there is **still some knowledge LEFT** of His law, from a time when all people knew God. Approximately 4,400 years ago, when the flood waters abated from the worldwide flood, Noah and his three sons and their wives repopulated the earth. At that time, everyone knew how to worship the true and living God, and knew His laws. Over the years, various people groups descended from Noah and his sons, scattered all over the earth, and eventually forgot about God, or deliberately turned their backs on Him. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says that **He has SET ETERNITY in the HEARTS of men**, which means we all have a yearning for some kind of god to worship, and a knowledge of an afterlife.

- **Romans 2:11-16** "For there is no partiality with God. For as many as have sinned without Law will also perish without Law; and as many as have sinned IN the Law, will be judged BY the Law; (For it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law shall be justified. For when Gentiles, who do not have the Law, by nature do the things contained in the Law, these, although not having the Law, are a law to themselves; who show **the work of the law WRITTEN in their HEARTS**, their CONSCIENCE also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them), In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ."
- **Ecclesiastes 3:11** "He has made everything beautiful in its time. **He has SET ETERNITY in the HEARTS of men**; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end."
- **Acts 14:15-17** ".....'Men, why are doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these vain things (idols) to the LIVING GOD, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless, **He did not leave Himself without WITNESS**, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, **filling our HEARTS** with food and gladness.'"
- **Acts 17:24-27** "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since **He gives to ALL life, breath and all thing**. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, **so that they should SEEK the LORD**, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us."

God has always made it possible for people to COME BACK to a true knowledge of Him, and He has left a witness to His divine nature and power in the works of creation around us. God witnessed to His existence by the blessings of the land, fruitful harvests, and the cycle of the seasons. **Anyone wanting to know the TRUE God** could look around at the creation and KNOW that there must be a CREATOR. Most remote tribes and cultures, even though heavily involved in idol worship or worship of spirits and demons, still have in their collective memory, or folklore, the knowledge of ONE TRUE GOD, who created everything. Each tribe or group has a different name for this God, but when Christianity and the God of the Bible are brought to them, many of them **recognize that this is the God that they ONCE KNEW**, a long time ago, and that they and **their ancestors had turned away from Him**, and they immediately

embrace the gospel of Jesus Christ. Whole villages and tribes are won to Christ almost overnight in these cases.

- **Romans 1:19-25 & 28** "Because what may be known of God is MANIFEST IN THEM, for God has shown it to them. For since the CREATION of the world **His invisible attributes** are clearly seen, **being understood by the things that are MADE**, even His eternal power and Godhead (divine nature), so that they are without excuse, because, although they KNEW [*about*] God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile (empty, stupid) in their thoughts, and **their foolish hearts were DARKENED**. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and CHANGED the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man-and birds and four-footed beasts and creeping things. Therefore God gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who **exchanged the TRUTH of GOD for the LIE**, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." "And even as **they did not LIKE to RETAIN God** in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased MIND, to do those things which are not fitting."

God has always given to EVERY PERSON in the WORLD enough information to know Him IF THEY WANT TO. The truth is, **most people DO NOT DESIRE TO KNOW GOD**, but would rather have a **god or religion of their OWN making**. When whole people groups and cultures REJECT GOD by turning to IDOLS and FALSE RELIGION, they plunge themselves further and further into DARKNESS, without **Jesus Christ, the TRUE LIGHT**.

- **John 1:9-10** "That was the **TRUE LIGHT** which **gives light to every man** who comes into the world. He was in the world, and **the WORLD was MADE through Him**, and the world **did not KNOW Him**."
- **Acts 26:18** "To open their eyes, and **to turn them from darkness to light**, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by FAITH in Me (Jesus)."

God is not obligated to provide MORE information about Himself, His laws, and the way of salvation, when people have REJECTED what He has already shown them. However, in His infinite GRACE and MERCY, He does provide the gospel message of salvation to all who will hear it and RECEIVE it. In the Day of Judgment, those who never heard about Jesus will be judged according to what they DID know about God, and for NOT desiring to know more. If God, in His omniscience and foreknowledge, KNEW that NO ONE in a certain people group or nation was open and receptive to the gospel, then He would not have bothered to send missionaries there.

- **Romans 5:13-14** "For **until the law** sin was in the world, but **sin is not IMPUTED** when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come."
- **Romans 3:9** "What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jew and Gentile that they are ALL under SIN."

Definition: "SIN was not IMPUTED" - "Imputed" means to hold something to someone's ACCOUNT. Where there was no specific list of commands (before Moses, when God gave the commandments, His Law) there was no strict ACCOUNTING of their points of violation. However, **DEATH REIGNED** over all mankind - Adam's sin brought universal death (everyone DIES)! We see that it is NOT a person's individual sins, or violations of God's law, that send them to hell, whether they KNOW God's laws or not, because no one can keep the law perfectly. Because Jesus already PAID FOR the sins of the whole world, God is not holding anyone's sins against them.

- **II Corinthians 5:19** "That is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, **NOT IMPUTING their TRESPASSES to them**, and has committed to us the word of RECONCILIATION."

The verses in the Bible which speak about God actually PUTTING His laws in our hearts, are speaking about when we come to faith in Jesus Christ and are born again. Even the references in the Old Testament are referring to the New Covenant.

- **Ezekiel 36:25-27** "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and all your idols. Moreover, **I will give you a NEW HEART and put a NEW SPIRIT within you**; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes (laws), and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."
- **Hebrews 10:16** "'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days,' says the Lord. **'I will PUT my LAWS into their HEARTS**, and in their MINDS I will write them.'

Every person, saved or unsaved, has a conscience that gives them a knowledge of right and wrong, and produces guilt when violated. It is a built-in warning system from God, but it can become desensitized. When a person violates his conscience enough times, it eventually becomes scarred, or seared (I Timothy 4:2) and that person no longer feels any guilt. Those described in Ephesians 4:19, "Who **being past FEELING**, have given themselves over to licentiousness (no moral restraint), to work all uncleanness with greediness," are people who no longer feel their conscience, and they have no remorse (feeling sorry) for doing wrong.

- **I Timothy 4:1-2** ".....some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, **having their own conscience SEARED** with a hot iron."
- **John 8:8-9** "And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Then those who heard it, **being CONVICTED by their CONSCIENCE**, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst."
- **Titus 1:15** "To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even **their MIND and CONSCIENCE are DEFILED**."
- **Hebrews 9:14** "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge (cleanse) **your conscience** from DEAD works to serve the living God?"

Definition: "DEAD WORKS" - these are **religious works** or **good deeds** done in the **power of the flesh**, and a person who is operating in their FLESH, and not in FAITH and the power of the Holy Spirit, **CANNOT** do ANYTHING that will be pleasing to God (Rom. 8:8). Before we are born again by faith in Jesus Christ, we are all DEAD in our sins, and all our works are DEAD works. This is why there is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ, because it is NOT the keeping of laws, commandments, ordinances, rules, or ANY OUTWARD CONDUCT that makes a person RIGHTEOUS. There must be **an INWARD CHANGE, a NEW BIRTH, a CREATION by GOD** of a completely NEW PERSON, for someone to be a part of His Kingdom (John 3:3).

- **Ephesians 2:4-5 & 8-9** "But GOD, who is rich in mercy, for His great love with which He loved us, even when we were **DEAD** in sins, **has MADE us ALIVE together with Christ** (by grace are you saved)" "For **by grace** you have been saved **through faith**, and that **not of yourselves**, it is **the gift of God**; not of works, lest anyone should boast."