

The Attackers: Conscience: Norms & Standards: Unbelievers Judged for their “Secrets,” Rom 2:16; Conscience Designed As a Governor but Is Programmed by Volition often by Religion; the Pure Conscience Is Built on Doctrine; Divine Good Produced by the Power of the Holy Spirit, Gal 5:22–23

Romans 2:12, 16a - For as many as without the Law have sinned, without the Law also will perish; and as many under the Law have sinned, through the Law will be judged ... in the day when God shall judge ...

- (10) What will be judged are called **κρυπτός** (*kruptos*): translated “secrets” in all the major English translations. The word refers to things that are hidden or concealed and therefore the word “secret” is used.
- (11) However, what are hidden and concealed are the inner motivations and rationales that operate in the souls of men. A person’s decision-making is the result of his frame of reference, the content of his memory center, the development of his vocabulary, the size of his categorical storage, and the norms and standards of his conscience.
- (12) The quality of these thoughts can only be evaluated by an all-knowing God. The individual may be deluded into thinking his works are pleasing to God and those who observe him may conclude the same thing.
- (13) But the truth is what is in the soul and only God can fully evaluate a person’s emotions and stream of consciousness. Therefore, the better translation would be “hidden things.”
- (14) It is God who will judge these things through Jesus Christ to Whom all judgment has been delegated.
- (15) And the standard of this judgment will be the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- (16) The gospel presents information that identifies Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah of Israel and the Savior of the world. Each of the individuals who will appear before the Great White Throne will have had the opportunity to consider Him as Savior and each will have rejected the message.
- (17) Therefore, throughout their earthly lives, the conscience of each unbeliever approved a system of human good and evil as sufficient to secure their place in a benevolent afterlife.
- (18) All religions have some system of works that are considered adequate for salvation and entry into heaven or some imagined equivalent location.
- (19) Such notions are in opposition to the revelation of Scripture and betray a conscience that functions on an inventory of ideas that stresses works over grace.
- (20) Those whose conscience is oriented to grace, divine viewpoint, and a set of norms and standards based on biblical truth have developed reciprocal love in their souls.
- (21) It is reciprocal love that motivates continued advance in the plan of God, which advance further increases one's momentum in the Christian way of life.
- (22) When a believer's conscience is pure then its presence is reflected in his production when under the ministry of the Holy Spirit:

Galatians 5:22 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **(v. 23)** gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (NASB)

- (1) The word “fruit” is the noun **καρπός (karpos)** and it refers to production. When the conscience and its norms and standards are biblically in sync with the thinking of Christ then the production is divine good.
- (2) The source of the production in view is that of Jesus Christ who, under the ministry of the Holy Spirit set the standards from which the believer is to develop his conscience.
- (3) Indwelt with both Christ and the Holy Spirit, the believer has the potential to replicate these norms and standards in his own personal life.
- (4) These two verses present nine examples of the norms and standards the believer should strive to emulate in his spiritual life.