

# Judge of the Secrets

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Romans 2:16

*Read Romans 2:1-16*

*"Although perpetually cheery in public, the Teresa of the letters lived in a state of deep and abiding spiritual pain. In more than 40 communications, many of which have never before been published, she bemoans the "dryness," "darkness," "loneliness" and "torture" she is undergoing. She compares the experience to hell and at one point says it has driven her to doubt the existence of heaven and even of God. She is acutely aware of the discrepancy between her inner state and her public demeanor. "The smile," she writes, is "a mask" or "a cloak that covers everything." Similarly, she wonders whether she is engaged in verbal deception. "I spoke as if my very heart was in love with God—tender, personal love," she remarks to an adviser. "If you were [there], you would have said, 'What hypocrisy.'" —David Van Biema*

*"I've never read a saint's life where the saint has such an intense spiritual darkness. No one knew she was that tormented." —Reverend James Martin*

## 1.) **Jesus Knows Our Secrets**

*Read verse 16.*

*John 1:47-49*

*Psalms 139:1, 4*

*John 2:23-25*

*John 6:63-64*

*"...Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." (John 21:17)*

## 2.) **Jesus Will Judge Our Secret Thoughts**

*Read verse 16*

*Romans 14:11*

*Psalms 98:9*

*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*

*1 Corinthians 4:5*

*Matthew 12:36*

*"I had been playing with matches and burned a small rug, I was in the process of covering up my crime when suddenly God saw me. I felt His gaze inside my head and on my hands. I whirled about in the bathroom, horribly visible, a live target. Indignation saved me. I flew into a rage against so crude an indiscretion, I blasphemed... He never looked at me again." —Jean-Paul Sartre*

*Read verse 16*

### **3.) Jesus Will Judge Us According to the Gospel**

*Galatians 5:17*