

Accountable
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“and all the world may become accountable to God”
Romans 3:19

Accountable—One of the amazing facts that you discover when you look closely at the Greek New Testament is how carefully the writers select the words they use. Often these words occurs only once or twice. They are deliberately chosen because they have deep implications or unique images that the writers wish to convey. This word is *hupodikos*. This is the only place it is found in the New Testament. It comes from the scene of a courtroom.

The case under trial is a case of slander. The injured party has come before the judge and presented evidence that the defendant willfully and maliciously slandered the name, authority and status of the plaintiff over a long period. There is no doubt about the verdict. The judge agrees and rules in favor of the plaintiff. The word *hupodikos* refers to the person who has been injured (slandered). It does not refer to the judge or the judgment. The whole world is accountable to God because the whole world has deliberately slandered God. He is the injured party.

Sin is an offense to God’s name, reputation, authority and character. Sin mocks God. There is no small sin. That is why no sin is excusable. Every sin calls God a liar.

We don’t take sin seriously. I don’t mean that we condone those actions that violate moral rules. We are rightly offended by lack of respect for life (murder), theft, adultery (when people are caught) and sometimes if it is not about us) envy. But the subtlety of sin is that it embraces us as a friend. Sin seeks tolerance. Sin wants us to give in a little here and a little there so that we get used to the idea. Sin loves company.

How many times has our tolerance really been an active insult to God? When will we see what insidious evil lurks within the human heart, ready to tell God the He is no longer needed?

No wonder Jesus said, “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.”

“Open my eyes, Lord, *slowly* lest I be overwhelmed with my unworthiness. But,
nevertheless, open them,”