

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 8/8-9/2022 *Romans Chapter 2***

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484**

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**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340**

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## **OPENING PRAYER**

**Theme of the Book of Romans: “Righteousness by Faith” – 1:16-17**

***Romans Chapter 2 – God’s Righteous Judgment (“respectable, self-righteous sinners”) - vs. 1-16; The Jews Guilty as the Gentiles (“religious sinners”) – vs. 17-24; Circumcision (“ritual/rituals”) of No Avail– vs. 25-28***

**We continue our study in Romans Chapter Two of this classic Book, written by the Paul the Apostle.**

- **In chapter one**, he tells us (*Rom 1:18-32*) *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. [20] 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, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile 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 animals and creeping things. Therefore 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. [26] For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. [28] 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; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

- **What is your response when you read this?** What is your reaction? The wrath of God is worthy. Just nail them, Lord! They are horrible! They are guilty! That is awful to do such things. But inwardly, do we think, subtly feeling more righteous, thinking I am glad I am not doing those things!
- **Now in chapter two, we come to the moral, but self-righteous man!**

### *God's Righteous Judgment*

**Rom 2:1** *Therefore you are inexcusable, O man (human being), whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge (condemning, pronouncing judgment) another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things (the things you are doing are just as bad – such as pride, covetousness, rebellion).*

- **You who judge: Judge - krino (6X Chap. 2) - to pronounce judgment; to subject to censure;** of those who act the part of judges or arbiters in the matters of common life, or pass judgment on the deeds and words of others: universally, and without case. We do need to remember we are to hate evil.
- **(Psa 97:10) You who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked. (Pro 8:13) The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate. (Amo 5:15) Hate evil, love good; Establish justice in the gate. It may be that the LORD God of hosts Will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.**
- **Discern both good and evil! Discern – diakrisis – the ability to distinguish and evaluate,** distinguishing, differentiation of good and evil. **(1Ki 3:9) Therefore give to Your servant (Solomon praying for wisdom) an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"(Heb 5:14) But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.**
- **But watch out! Paul said, Therefore, because of all of this, you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.** Jesus said, **(Mat 7:1) "Judge not, that you be not judged.** Yet we find it quite easy to pass judgment on people, as though we know what they are thinking. As though we know what is their motive. We do not know what is in the heart of a person. We are so prone to cast judgment. Yet, we really do not know what's going on in their heart. We think we do. We say, well, did you see the way he looked, you know. Did you see that sneer? You know, and we are so prone to judge people. We are all different. A person may be doing the same thing but have a whole different attitude and heart.
- **We do not know what is going on in a person's heart or mind.** Although, we are so ready and quick to judge, God has not allowed us that luxury of judging others! He has reserved that for Himself. Now the moment I enter into judgment on another person's actions, I am now possessing a knowledge of righteousness that is knowing that that is wrong. It is an admission on my part that I

know it is wrong! In the judging, I am actually acknowledging that I know the right from the wrong. Which means that I am *inexcusable* when I do something similar! Often as we judge another person for what they have done, in reality all you have to do is alter the circumstances slightly, and we find that I am doing the same thing!

- **We remember the account of David and Bathsheeba.** Nathan came to David and said there is a man in your kingdom who is extremely wealthy. He has more than he could ever spend. Herds and flocks. Next door to him there lives next to him a very poor man. All he has is one little ewe lamb. It is like a child to him. It eats at his table and sleeps in his house at night. The rich man had company come for dinner. He ordered his servants to go and by force take the one little ewe lamb from the neighbor and slaughter it in order that he might feed his guests. David's righteous indignation rose within himself, saying that man will surely be put to death! Nathan said, David, you are that man.
- **You see, change the circumstances and the situation slightly, we often find that we are guilty** of judging someone for the same things that we are doing. Only with a slight change of the story, we are often the guilty ones. We are the man. Therefore, we are inexcusable in judging others. God sees our hearts. The law was intended to deal with the spirit, the attitude of man. Interpreting the law to only deal with its physical, outward, was a mistake. Thus, I could be guilty of murder without ever touching another person. But by the hatred, the absolute hatred, that I have for them. It is brewing in my heart. Jesus said that I am guilty of murder.
- **I may never enter into with a physical relationship with another woman, other than my wife.** Yet, if I am lusting and desiring a relationship, then I have already committed adultery in my heart. As Paul gives us this list of things that are being done by the pagan world, the murder, adultery, fornication, and all, he says not only do they do those things, but they take pleasure in those that do them.
- **Now today in the film industry, Hollywood, what are the things that are being portrayed** in the movies? Murder, violence, fornication, adultery. Do you watch those movies? Why do you watch those movies? As you are watching them, do you think, that is terrible? Nobody should do those things. That is awful. I hate that. I do not want to see that kind of stuff. Are you really turned off by it or are you turned on by it? You see if those kind of things, and the only reason that I can understand a person really watching that, is that it does turn them on. You see, if it did not you would not be watching. But as you watch, if you are taking pleasure in those things. If you are deriving pleasure out of that movie that is portraying adultery or fornication or murder or whatever, if you take pleasure in that, yet you are judging people that do those things, then you are taking pleasure in it yourself! You see, then you are guilty!

### **God's Judgment of Man According to Truth - v. 2**

***Rom 2:2*** But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.

- **God is going to judge them. His judgment will be according to truth.** For God knows what is in their heart. In the day when the secrets of the heart will be revealed. God knows what is in a person's mind. We remember when Ezekiel the prophet had a vision, (*Eze 8:8,10*) *Then He said to me, "Son of man, dig into the wall"; and when I dug into the wall, there was a door. [10] So I went in and saw, and there—every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around on the walls.* God said, I have allowed you to enter into the chamber of the minds of the leaders of Israel. You are seeing what they are thinking in their minds. Pornographic, abominable things!
- **God knows our thoughts. God knows our hearts.** Thus, the judgment of God will be *according to truth!* Our judgment is not always *according to truth*. Many times we perceive what we think is true, but often our perceptions are faulty.

***Rom 2:3*** And do you think this, *O man, you* who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?

- **The second thing - God's judgment is inescapable!** No man can escape the judgment of God.

***Rom 2:4*** Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

- **God is so patient. He deals with us with such patience and longsuffering.** He is so forbearing with us. He does not strike immediately. In His goodness, He gives time for repentance. He calls us to repentance. He is patient and longsuffering as He waits for us. But the whole purpose of God is that it might bring you to repentance.
- **Here is the problem because so often because God is so longsuffering,** because God seemingly is allowing you to get by with it. Or you see someone else doing these things and it seems God is allowing them to get by with it. We begin to mistake the longsuffering of God as weakness, as though God is not able to judge. That is a grave mistake to make, interpreting the patience and the longsuffering of God as weakness.
- **But there is one mistake even worse! And people often make this mistake!** They think that the longsuffering of God **constitutes approval!** That God actually is approving the things that they are doing. That is a fatal mistake! God in His forbearance and longsuffering is giving you an opportunity to repent. (2Pe 3:9) The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
- **You are not to despise this forbearance and goodness of God,** but realize that their purpose is to bring you to that repentance! God is slow to anger. God does not want to destroy you., saying in (Eze 33:11) *Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'*
- **God loves you more than you can ever realize.** In spite of what you are doing, God is patient. He gives you time and space to repent. But there comes a day, and make no mistake about it, when God will judge you. If you have not repented of your sin and turned to Jesus Christ then you will face the wrath of God against all sin!

#### According to accumulated guilt – v. 5

**Rom 2:5** *But in accordance with your hardness (stubbornness) and your impenitent (unrepentant, self-determined) heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,*

- **What is happening, if you continue in sin and in these practices,** God is longsuffering, and He is patient. You begin to misinterpret it and think that He is weak, or He approves. Actually, what is happening is that it is like a river that is being held back by a dam and the water keeps flowing in. But one day the thing is going to burst. It is going to burst, and the water is going to come flooding out in an uncontrollable surge and force! Thus, the wrath of God, the indignation against the sin is building up. You are treasuring through *your hardness and impenitent heart* this storing up this wrath of God. That when the day of judgment comes, it is going to be revealed. *The righteous judgment of God.*

#### According to Works – v. 6

**Rom 2:6** *who "WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS":*

- **The next thing we learn about God's judgment. It is righteous, according to truth.** It is righteous judgment. It is not only what we know, it is what we do! When God is judging the world, (Rev 16:4-7) *Then the third angel poured out his bowl on the rivers and springs of water, and they became blood. [5] And I heard the angel of the waters saying: "You are righteous, O Lord, The One who is and who was and who is to be, Because You have judged these things. [6] For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, And You have given them blood to drink. For it is their just due." [7] And I heard another from the altar saying, "Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments."* The acknowledgment in the midst of the Great Tribulation period.
- **For God, who "WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS."** God will be righteous in His judgment. Every man will receive from God according to his deeds.

**Rom 2:7** *eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;*

**Rom 2:8** *but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,*

- **God will judge them and reward them with *eternal life!*** We are not to read this passage and say if I do good I will be saved and if I do bad, I am lost! That is not the basis of salvation! That is not what Paul is saying! He is saying just what James said, (*Jas 2:20*) *But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?*
- **When a person is truly born again, the new life is going to be marked by an obedient life overall and** characterized by obedience. Whereas the life that is marked and characterized by disobedience is a reflection that that life is not born again and is headed for judgment! Your works are not the cause of eternal life, but are the result or product of your being born again! Your works are in response to the love He has shown to you.
- **Those who are self-seeking. They will receive the indignation and wrath of God.** God's judgment will be righteous. It will be according to truth. If you are patiently continuing in seeking to do the will of God, and you are seeking the glory of God and the honor for God in your life, God will give you eternal life! But to those who do not obey the truth and follow after unrighteousness, it will be His indignation and His wrath.

**Rom 2:9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;**

**Rom 2:10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.**

- **The Jew first because he has been given the most light and understanding.** To them were given the oracles of God, the law of God. Thus, with these privileges comes a greater responsibility. That is true for us in this day! God has given us His Word and the knowledge of His Word. Knowing the truth brings a responsibility unto each of us, to all of us, of obedience to that truth that we know. The greater the light, the greater the responsibility. For we will be judged according to the light that we receive.

**Without respect of Persons – v. 11**

**Rom 2:11 For there is no partiality with God.**

- **You are as important to God as anybody else in the whole world!** God loves you supremely. *For there is no partiality with God.* People will come to a pastor and say, I want you to pray for this because you are closer to God than I am. That is not so! No pastor is not closer to God than you. All of us are equally close to God. As Paul said to the Athenians, in Him we live, we move, we have our being. A pastor may be more conscious of the presence of God than you, but surely not any closer. God does not respect a pastor or his prayers any more quickly that He does yours! You are just as important to God as the Pope. Man elevates other men. In God, we are all at the same level when we stand before Him! You are important to God! *For there is no partiality with God.*

**God's Judgment and the Law**

**Rom 2:12 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**

- **People frequently say, what about that poor man in the dark areas of Africa, who has never heard of the gospel of Jesus Christ?** Paul deals with that issue here. Those who have sinned without knowing the law of God, will perish without the law.

**According to performance, not knowledge – vs. 13-15 – (Parenthetical)**

**Rom 2:13 (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;**

**Rom 2:14 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,**

**Rom 2:15 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 next chapter he is going to show us that no one has done or kept the law. (Rom 3:10, 23) As it is written: "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE; [23] for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.** Those that have the law will be judged by a higher standard than from

those that did not have the law.

- **Every man, whether or not he knows the law of God or the word of God, has the consciousness** of, “This is right or this is wrong!” There are things that he knows that he should do and things that he knows that he should not do! No man has been totally obedient to his own standards that he knows are right to do! All have sinned! Those who have the law have violated the law.
- **Those that do not have the law, the ten commandments and all, still have** an awareness that it is wrong to hurt. It is wrong to bring pain. It is wrong to take from someone else. There is that innate law that is written in a person’s heart. Thus, even because he may not know or have the law of God, he will still be judged according to that law that God has written in his heart. The standard that God has placed in his own mind and conscience. There is not a single one of us here, who have not had the voice of conscience say to us, that was wrong! So, we are all guilty. The degree does not matter. We are guilty!
- **The Bible says if you keep the whole law and yet offend in one point, you are just as guilty** as if you broke them all. (*Gal 3:10*) *For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT CONTINUE IN ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO DO THEM.”* (*Jas 2:10*) *For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.*
- **How many violations does it take to make you guilty?** How many times do you have to go on the freeway at seventy-five miles an hour to be guilty of breaking the law? If an officer pulls you over and you say, well, I have only done this five times, you know, it is not fair. Everybody else is going past me and all. Well, you know, you are guilty! Once, you are guilty. You may do it just once and get caught, but still you are going to have to pay the same fine as if you had done it a hundred times and finally got caught on the one hundred and first time.
- **Their conscience also bearing witness.** There is intuitively in every single person a knowledge that certain things are always wrong, which should never be done – murder, stealing, lying. And that certain things are always right! I should always do them! The existence of the conscience within the human heart is a testimony to our heart that we have been created by God, because One who is greater than we are, has created and given us a conscience that is higher than our practice!
- **Every Gentile has the light of creation, which speaks that there is a Creator**, who is greater than the creation, behind all creation! When a Gentile, even without the law looks at nature, all of nature is a testimony, outside of them, speaking to them day and night, declaring that there is a God! And that anyone who seeks Him, will be drawn near to Him, with God making sure that person finds Him!
- **Not only does the Gentile have the testimony of creation and design**, but he has the testimony of conscience. He has a witness to the existence of God, out there! But he also has the witness to the existence of God inside of his heart! Every single one of us has a conscience.
- **Guilty. We all are guilty before God.** That is what Paul is bringing us to in this as he really elaborates this when we get into the next chapter, but all, Jew or Gentile. The Jew has the law, the greater knowledge. Judged by a higher standard. We who are Gentiles without the law, will be judged by the law that God has written in our own hearts. None of us shall escape. This law of God written in our heart shows the work of the law *whereby the conscience also bearing witness and their thoughts accusing or else excusing them.*

### God’s judgment reaches the secrets of the heart – v. 16

*Rom 2:16 in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.*

- **Have you ever thought what it would be like to stand before God in judgment** and try to declare your innocence? To try to lie your way out of what is justly due? Well now God, that is not what I was thinking. Oh, it is not? Gabriel, project on the screen what was going on in their mind when they were doing that. God will judge according to the secrets of men.

### According to reality, not religious profession – vs. 17-29

*Rom 2:17 **Indeed you are called a Jew, and rest on the law, and make your boast in God,***

*Rom 2:18 **and know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law,***

*Rom 2:19 **and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are***

*in darkness,*

- **Up until this point it is pretty much all of us**, whoever you are who is judging another and yet guilty yourself. Now he is addressing **the Jews directly**. We are Jews. We have the law of God. God has spoken to us and given to us His laws. You boast of the fact that you know the will of God
- **The Jew was very proud and rightfully so of the fact that God had spoken to them** and the nation as He was seeking to prepare a nation through which He might bring the Messiah into the world. Thus, they were very proud of the fact that God had delivered to their fathers, the Law, God's Law.
- **You have the light of God. You have the knowledge of God.** It is a very heady thing. God has spoken to me! God has revealed His will to me! I have been instructed by God!

**Rom 2:20** *an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law.*

- **This is how you look at yourself.** *As an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law.* Thus, their position, as instructors of God's laws. An instructor of righteousness.
- **James warns us against this.** (*Jas 3:1*) *My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.* To teach God's truth again brings an awesome responsibility. To say that I am bringing to you God's Word, which I feel that I am because I'm going straight through the passages. But to be a teacher places me under a greater responsibility before God as I share with you what God has said that we should do or should not do! If what I am declaring to you, is not being fulfilled in my own life, I stand in a greater judgment because I know the truth. I am a teacher, one who shares the truth.

**Rom 2:21** *You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?*

- **Yes! Often a person will come up to me after sharing and say, that was just for me.** And I am thinking, no, it was just for me! Often I am convicted of God as I am ministering or meditating on the truth of God, it will strike my own heart and I will feel the conviction of God. Frequently, as I am speaking, I am repenting. *You teach others, but don't you teach yourself?*
- **You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? Do you sometimes take that** which is not rightfully yours? Are you stealing from your boss by not giving him a full eight-hour day? You see, it can be in so many forms.

**Rom 2:22** *You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?*

- **You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery?** Are you as Jesus said, looking at a woman and desiring her in your heart? We say oh no, you should not commit adultery. That is one of the works of the flesh. We know that they which do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But am I guilty of looking lustfully at a woman and desiring her?
- **You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? We look at idolatry** and people making little images, Buddha and other images. Did we say is not that ridiculous? Yet, so often, we have idols in our heart! You may have never formed one out of wood or stone. But within your heart, is there idolatry because of your love for other things that exceeds your love for God! Your God is always to be the chief love in your life. Whatever you love more than anything else is your god. God said You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart. The love for Him has to be first.
- **You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?** At the time this was written, people would take the false idols for themselves and sell them, even though God has told them not to! (*Deu 7:25*) You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an abomination to the LORD your God.

**Rom 2:23** *You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law?*

**Rom 2:24** *For "THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU," as it is written.*

- **They were boasting that we have the law of God.** But just having the law is not sufficient. In the breaking of the law, you actually are dishonoring God and bringing disrepute to God. Remember the sin of David with Bathsheeba. When he was faced by the prophet with this sin, one of the by-products of David's sin, according to the prophet was, you have caused the enemies of God to blaspheme. The people know, David, that you love God. They know, David, that you have the law of God. They know, David, that you are a man of God. Yet by this sin, now the enemies of God, those that hate God, you have given them an opportunity to blaspheme God. Look at David, he is supposed to be a man after God's heart! Look at what he had done.
- **That is the tragic by-product of our sin so often, that here we are taking the name of Christ, we are known as Christians, and then if we take advantage of someone.** If we cheat in a business deal, if we are deceptive in our practices, it causes people to blaspheme Jesus! They say, he is supposed to be Christian, but do you know what he did? The name of Christ is disgraced and blasphemed many times by the things that we do.
- **For "THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU, as it is written, (Isaiah 52:5) Now therefore, what have I here," says the LORD, "That My people are taken away for nothing? Those who rule over them Make them wail," says the LORD, "And My name is blasphemed continually every day.** Paul reminds the Jew that God has said in the Old Testament that the failure of the Jew to obey the law has caused the Gentile to blaspheme and reproach God. We set ourselves and others up for a huge fall if we start pointing to anything or anyone other than Jesus Christ and Him crucified!

### **Circumcision of No Avail – vs. 25-29**

**Rom 2:25 For circumcision (think, baptism for us Gentiles) is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.**

- **For circumcision, the badge of the covenant which was given to Abraham.** Abraham, you will be My people. I will be your God. I will bless you. I will multiply you. Nations and kings shall come from you. I will give to your descendants the land in which you dwell. Now as a sign of this covenant, you are to be a spiritual people, you are to be the father of a spiritual nation. You are to be a father of those who believe in Me. People who live and walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh; therefore, the male children that are born, your descendants are to be circumcised. The flesh is to be cut off, indicating that they are not to live after the flesh, but they are to live after the Spirit. It is a ritual even to the present day, among the Jews. When a person wanted to proselytize into the Jewish faith, one of the requirements was circumcision. An acclimation that I am going to live after the Spirit. I am not going to live after the flesh.
- **When the Gentile church began to spread, there were certain Jews that felt you cannot be saved unless you are circumcised.** They began to create problems in the Gentile church in Antioch, saying unless you are circumcised and keep the law of Moses, you cannot be saved. The first church counsel, Acts chapter 15, was convened to order to deal with this very issue, of whether or not circumcision was essential for salvation.
- **But here Paul is declaring that circumcision does not profit you, unless you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.** It is just like you were not circumcised. The ritual does not save you. The law does not save you. Having the law does not save you. Keeping the ordinances of the law, circumcision, which does not save you. For if you are circumcised and still you do not keep the law, it is as though you were not circumcised.

**Rom 2:26 Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?**

- **If that is true, then, reversing that, if an uncircumcised man (the Gentiles) keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?** Because, you see, it is an issue of the heart. That is what God is interested in.
- **Thus, with baptism in the Christian faith, one of the rituals of the Christian church.** It is the same thought, the burying of the life of the flesh to live a life of the Spirit. The water representing the grave, the old life, governed by the flesh, buried. I rise up out of the water in newness of life in Christ Jesus to live after the Spirit. But if I rise up out of the water and still live after the flesh, then the baptism is totally meaningless. It does not count.

- **But if a person is living after the Spirit though he has not been baptized, the issue is that in his heart is where the true baptism takes place. It is in my heart that I determine to live after the Spirit and to walk after the Spirit.**
- **Unfortunately, there may be many people in hell who have been baptized.** Similarly, there will be many in heaven who were never baptized, as physically going under the water. Yes, I think it is important. Yes, we should be obedient to the command to be baptized, but it's not essential to salvation. The physical action of baptism. Certainly, the Spiritual rebirth in a person's heart is essential. *(Mar 16:16) He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*

**Rom 2:27 *And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law?***

- **A Gentile's humble obedience to the law should serve as a stern rebuke to a Jew who, in spite of his great advantages, lives in disobedience!**

**Rom 2:28 *For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh;***

**Rom 2:29 *but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.***

- **The Jews were in often conflict with Jesus.** One of their conflicts, recorded in John's gospel (John chapter 8), they made their boast of being Jews. We are the children of Abraham. Jesus said if you were the children of Abraham then you would have believed Me. But you are of your father, the Devil. Now they said they were Jews, but not all that say they are Jews are true Jews. Because it isn't a thing of physical descendancy. It's what is in a person's heart. A true Jew is a thing of the heart, not of the flesh.
- **In the Revelation, the letter to the church in Smyrna, Jesus said, (Rev 2:9b) *I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.*** Paul here is talking about the true Jew is not one outwardly. Not a person who is just one outwardly. That does not make you a Jew. The circumcision is not an outward action. A Jew is one inwardly. One who had dedicated and committed his life to God. It is the circumcision of the heart that counts before God. A man who walks after the Spirit in truth and not in the letter. The praise is not of man, but he receives the praise of God and the acknowledgment of God! Thus, we should seek the praise of God, the acceptance of God! Not of man, I am not worried about that. But that I am right before God. That my heart is right before God.
- **Paul continues this very same thought as we go into chapter three.** He is going to show that we are all guilty, Jew and Gentile alike. Thus, we all need a Savior, which God has provided in Jesus Christ! So, it is a tremendous, tremendous, presentation of the gospel, showing that all of us, Jew and Gentile alike, have come short of the glory of God! There is none of us who are righteous, no not one! All of us need a Savior! Jesus Christ is that Savior! That we will get in chapter three as we move on in this glorious presentation.
- **This presentation of Paul of the gospel and the way he presents his case is so classic** that it used to be in some of the law school schools, as such a clear, powerful presentation, as a sample of how to present a case. The law students had to memorize it. I imagine things have changed by now. But it is just inspired of the Spirit!, It is a wonderful, classical presentation!

### **KEY POINTS:**

- **Continuing to show that all are humans are under sin, we come to the moral, but self-righteous man!** *Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.* How clearly do I see myself as being a moral, self-righteous person?
- **All of us, Jew and Gentile alike, have come short of the glory of God!** There is none of us who are righteous, no not one! All of us need a Savior! Jesus Christ is that Savior!
- **Both Jew and Gentile have sinned,** committed acts of transgression, legally guilty.
- **Both Jew and Gentiles are in sin,** referring to the inward condition, the moral aspect, morally corrupt and perishing.

- **May we, with the Lord's help, leave judgment to Him!** Rather than looking at others, may we allow You, Lord, to look at us, revealing to us those things in our lives that are displeasing, unkind, unlike You
- **We desire, Lord, to be like You.** Move in our hearts and in our lives. Lead us to repentance!
- **Lord, we thank You for Your goodness and Your mercy! Your forbearance and Your longsuffering!**  
*Rom 2:4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?*

**GOODNESS OF GOD** - Bethel Music (4:56)

*I love You, Lord, Oh Your mercy never fails me. All my days I've been held in Your hands  
 From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head, I will sing of **the goodness of God**  
 Chorus - And all my life You have been faithful And all my life You have been so, so good  
 With every breath that I am able Oh, I will sing of **the goodness of God**  
 I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire. In the darkest night, You are close like no other.  
 I've known You as a Father. I've known You as a Friend. And I have lived in **the goodness of God**  
 (Chorus)  
 Cause Your goodness is running after. It's running after me.  
 Your goodness is running after. It's running after me.  
 With my life laid down I'm surrendered now I give You everything  
 Your goodness is running after, It's running after me. (2x)  
 (Chorus) (2x)  
 Oh, I'm gonna sing of **the goodness of God***

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

**Read and meditate over Romans Chapter 3!**