



BEULAH FIRST BAPTIST

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Focus: Rooted – A Study Through Romans

Week 2: “When Roots Become Religious”

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Introduction: In Romans 2, Paul turns from describing the brokenness of the world to examining the danger of religious confidence without humility. After addressing the rejection of truth in chapter 1, Paul now speaks to those who recognize sin but fail to see themselves as part of the problem. This chapter prepares us for Romans 3 by dismantling spiritual pride and reminding us that everyone stands in need of God's grace.

FOUR MISTAKES RELIGIOUS PEOPLE MAKE — ROMANS 2

Romans 2 exposes how religion without humility can miss grace.

MISTAKE	ROMANS TEXT	WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE	WHY IT'S DANGEROUS
Blame	Romans 2:1–4	Judging others to avoid self-examination	Repentance is delayed.
Brashness	Romans 2:5–11	Assuming privilege protects us	God's patience is misread.
Blindness	Romans 2:12–16	Knowing truth without obeying it	Knowledge replaces obedience.
Bitterness	Romans 2:17–29	Religion without heart change	Witness is damaged.

Key Scriptures

- **Romans 2:1–4** – Judging others while excusing ourselves
- **Romans 2:5–11** – God's impartial judgment
- **Romans 2:12–16** – Knowing the law versus obeying the law
- **Romans 2:17–24** – Religious identity without transformation
- **Romans 2:25–29** – True identity as a matter of the heart

1. Judging Others While Excusing Ourselves -(Romans 2:1–4:) Paul confronts the tendency to condemn sin in others while overlooking similar patterns in ourselves. Judgment becomes a way to shift blame outward and avoid personal repentance. God's kindness is meant to lead us toward repentance, not moral superiority.

Truths to See

- Moral judgment does not equal moral innocence
- Blame shifts attention away from self-examination
- God's patience is meant to lead us to repentance

Biblical Examples

- **The Pharisee and the Tax Collector** – Gospel of Luke 18:9–14
- David confronted by Nathan – 2 Samuel 12
- Jesus' teaching on the plank and the speck – Matthew 7:1–5

2. God's Judgment Is Fair and Impartial - (Romans 2:5–11): Paul makes it clear that God shows no favoritism. Religious background, knowledge, or position does not exempt anyone from accountability. God judges according to truth, not status.

Truths to See

- God's justice is consistent and impartial
- Privilege does not replace obedience
- God's patience should lead to humility, not presumption

Biblical Examples

- God judging Israel and surrounding nations – Amos 1–2
- Peter declaring God shows no partiality – Acts 10:34–35

3. Knowing the Law Is Not the Same as Obeying It - (Romans 2:12–16): Paul explains that simply hearing or possessing God's law does not justify anyone. Accountability is based on response to the truth received. Obedience reveals the heart's alignment with God.

Truths to See

- Knowledge without obedience still leaves us accountable
- Spiritual maturity is measured by response, not information
- God judges according to the light each person has received

Biblical Examples

- Israel hearing but not obeying – Deuteronomy 30
- Warning against being hearers only – James 1:22

4. Religious Identity Without Transformation - (Romans 2:17–24): Paul addresses reliance on religious identity rather than faithful living. Teaching truth without living it dishonors God and damages the credibility of faith. When covenant identity is not matched by obedience, God's name is misrepresented to those outside the faith.

Truths to See

- Religious confidence does not excuse disobedience
- Identity without integrity weakens witness
- God's name is dishonored when truth is not practiced

Biblical Example

- **Abraham and Sarah** – Book of Genesis 12:10–20; 20:1–13
Though called by God and given covenant promises, Abraham acted out of fear and misrepresented Sarah as his sister. His dishonesty weakened his credibility and placed God's name at risk before those who did not know Him.

5. True Identity Is a Matter of the Heart - (Romans 2:25–29): Paul concludes by redefining what it means to belong to God. External markers are meaningless without inward transformation. True faith flows from a changed heart and seeks God's approval above human praise.

Truths to See

- Outward signs do not guarantee inward change
- God values heart transformation over appearance
- True praise comes from God, not people

Biblical Examples

- God looking at the heart – 1 Samuel 16:7
- Promise of a new heart – Jeremiah 31:33