

Lesson 2, ROMANS 2 & 3

Paul has given a scathing accusation of those who worship idols and fall into the degradation of sin, but he is not finished with those who are not righteous. In chapter 2 he looks at the moralist or those who may be today's pew sitters and are more than ready to pronounce judgment on others.

1. Read Romans 2:1-16. What does Jesus say about judgment in Matthew 7:1-5? Also reading John 5:22 and John 8:15-16, what do these verses say about judgement? Why do you think we are all so ready to judge our fellow man? (This is a what do you think....there is no right answer)

2. Read Romans 2:17-29. Now Paul addresses the Jews. They had a belief that because they were Abraham's descendants, they had an inside track to God. Circumcision was the physical mark that you belonged to the Living God. What does Paul condemn these Jews of? What do you think circumcision of the heart means?

3. Read Romans 3:1-8. The Jews did have advantages. What are they according to these verses? Read Psalm 51 which was written by King David after he had committed adultery and murder. What strikes you as you read these ancient verses?

4. Read Romans 3:9-20. What does Paul conclude in these verses? What does he say is the purpose of the Law (the commandments recorded by Moses)?

5. Read the rest of Romans 3. A hallelujah needs to be said before verse 21. This becomes what Paul will be stressing throughout Romans. Underline verses 23-24 in red. If God must be a just God, and we all fail at being righteous and should be condemned, Jesus is the answer. How does God work out this dilemma? See verse 25. Define atonement or propitiation. What does Jesus say about the Law in Matthew 5:17?

APPLICATION: We all fall short of the glory of God. Write down ways that you may “fall short”. Remember, Jesus is the atonement or payment for all our sins: those in the past, those done today, and those we will do tomorrow.

PRAYER: Most gracious and loving Father, we are awed and in wonder over your plan of salvation not only to each of us but to mankind from the beginning of time. You knew we would fall short of righteousness but in your love, you provided a way back to you. The cross of Jesus stands as a bastion of hope and joy as we cling to it. Give each of us the realization of the sacrifice you made, a sacrifice of love, mercy, and grace. Help us to live lives honoring that love and sacrifice. We ask this in the glorious name of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Amen.