

# Romans 2

Jesus

- **1:1-18 God's Plan Revealed:** Just will live by Faith. Salvation by Grace alone through Faith Alone in Christ Alone
- **1:18- 32 Digression into Darkness:** Need for Salvation of All Humanity...
  1. **v 19** **Denial** of God revealed to man by Creation
  2. **v 21** **Responding** to Revelation: Suppression of Truth rather than Thankfulness/Praise
  3. **v 23** **Turning** from God to Idolatry: Worship of that which is not God. God's passive wrath...
    - v 24 Given up to lust/dishonor of physical body
    - v 26 Given up to vile passions: Homosexuality/Lesbianism
    - v 28 Given over to **debased mind all other manner of sin...**

**Romans 1:32** [These...] 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.**

## Those sinners are Inexcusable?

### I. God's Righteous Judgment

1 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.**

Paul anticipated some who would look around Rome and agree that those sinners are inexcusable. Paul by God's Holy Spirit makes it clear in the very beginning of this letter that judging the sin of others is not the direction we are going [NJC]

Therefore, you who judge others without self-assessment...**are inexcusable**  
**Our sin looks so much worse on others than on ourselves...**

- **David sin w/ Bathsheba:** Sleeps with friend's wife/has him killed/sits on it for a year
- **Nathan the Prophet:** Parable of rich man who demanded poor man's pet sheep feed to dinner guest

**2 Samuel 12:5** So David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, **the man who has done this shall surely die!** 6 And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity." 7 Then Nathan said to David, "**You are the man! ...**

Paul reminds his readers...**We are** the man/woman  
**We all** are desperately in need of a Savior

**Matthew 7:1** "Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye? 5 Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

- To those who caught her in while in act adultery...**Jesus would write their sin in**

dust

**John 8:9** ... being **convicted by their conscience**, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

I'm coming to Rome and we will preach to sinners  
Don't let me see a plank in your eye **or you will be useless** to the Kingdom of God

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

**Q, True Statement? A.** Yes. **Q.** But who is the reader of Romans apply it to?

**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?

- **Do you judge murderers?** ...yet in bitterness toward another?
- **Do you judge sexual immorality** in others? ...but enjoy it on TV?

**Matthew 5:21** "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' 22 But I say to you that **whoever is angry** with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. .... **27** "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' 28 But I say to you that **whoever looks at a woman to lust** for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

**We dare not mistake God's patience as somehow condoning of our pet sin  
Do not be deceived...We will reap what we sow unless we repent**

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

- **Moses:** Let me see you Lord. God placed him in cleft of Rock...

**Exodus 34:6** And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord God, **merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth...**

**Hebrews 13:8** Jesus Christ is the **same** yesterday, today, and forever.

- **Riches of God found in His...**

1. **Goodness** Kindness and desire for our good
2. **Forbearance** Tolerance/Self-restraint/Bear
3. **Longsuffering** Endurance, constancy, steadfastness, perseverance

**2 Peter 3:9** ... 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...** **15** and consider that the longsuffering of our **Lord is salvation**—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you...

- **Paul personally knew God's patience in his own life...Responded to God's goodness w/Repentance**

**1 Timothy 1:15** This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to **save sinners**, of **whom I am chief**. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show **all longsuffering**, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

If Jesus can save Me, he can save you...Respond to His goodness w/... **Repentance**  
**Or if not...** [We are free moral agents not robots]

**5** ...in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are **treasuring up** for yourself wrath in the **day of wrath** and revelation of the righteous judgment of God...

- **Who is Paul addressing?** I thought he liked this church?

Paul is addressing anyone who would read the first chapter of Romans as written to others  
Preparing a people to serve in humility...Fertile ground that bears Good Fruit

- **Pride** begets **Legalism**      Children of the **Devil**
- **Humility** begets **Grace**      Children of **God**

When God pours out His Goodness in Longsuffering man has a choice  
Repent and store up Grace/Mercy or...Harden heart and store up God's wrath

**6** ... who "will render to each one according to his deeds": 7 [God will give...] eternal life to those who by patient **continuance in doing good** seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath 9 tribulation and anguish,

**Psalm 62:12** ... You render to each one **according to his work**.

**Proverbs 24:12b**... will He not render to each man **according to his deeds?**

**Q.** I thought we were saved by Grace and Not Good Works?

**A.** Good works do not save us but the saved will be known **for Good Works** [Eph 2]

**3 John 1:11** Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. **He who does good is of God**, but **he who does evil has not seen God**.

- **Mark of Born=Again individual?** Continuance in doing Good motivated by love

David was a man after God's own Heart...  
Did not have God's heart but sought it. Failed but God did not

- Those who want to be judged by their good works will...and regret it [I'm good person]

**Revelation 20:12** [WTJ] And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, **each one according to his works**.

**James 2:10** ... whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is

## guilty of all.

- **Only One kept the Law perfectly...**and it's not me/you
- We enter Heaven Righteous work Jesus on the Cross who kept the entire Law perfectly

Those who do not **obey the Truth** will **receive God's Wrath**

**Q. What does it mean to obey the truth? To obey the written law perfectly?**

**John 6:28** Then they said to [Jesus], "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" 29 Jesus answered and said to them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.**"

**Acts 16:30** [The jailer...] brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ... they said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved...**"

**Saved By Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ Alone...**  
The Just will Live by Faith in the Finished Work of Jesus on the Cross

- Good works sign we are born from above/not a way to get there [Jesus is the Way]

**1 John 2:29** ... everyone who **practices righteousness is born of Him.**

**1 John 3:10** In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever **does not practice righteousness is not of God**, nor is he who does not love his brother.

- **Saved:** Those who believe the gospel in humility as demonstrated by good works...
  1. Glory
  2. Honor
  - 3. Immortality: Eternal home is Heaven**
- **Unsaved:** Those who deny the gospel in pride as demonstrated by self-seeking
  1. God's Indignation
  2. Tribulation/Anguish
  - 3. God's Wrath: Eternity abode is hell**

**Job 24:13** "There are those [many] who **rebel against the light...** [way to hell is broad]

**2 Thessalonians 1:8** [Jesus will come] ... in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not **obey the gospel** [accept the Good News] **of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

- **So...** God's judgment

**9b...** on every soul of man who **does evil**, of the Jew first and also of the Greek **10** but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. **11** For there is **no partiality with God.**

**Deuteronomy 10:17** ...the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who **shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.**

**Job 34:19** ...He is not partial to princes, Nor **does He regard the rich more than the poor**; For they are all the work of His hands.

**Acts 10:34** [Peter of gentile Cornelius]: In truth I perceive that **God shows no partiality.**

**Big-Shot Status** on earth does not apply/translate well to Heaven's Economy  
Like trying to convert Apple Pages to Word doc. **Format Problems**

- **Questions not asked at Judgment?**
  1. Nationally/Color of Skin
  1. Disability/Weight/Family Status
  2. Intelligence/Beauty/Wealth
  3. Good Works/Tolerance
  4. Vaccinated/Climate footprint...No

### **What did you do with My Son? With My Goodness?**

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** 13 (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified...)

- **Q.** Is Paul now saying we can be justified by the Law?
- **A.** As a well-educated Lawyer builds his case

**Galatians 2:16** ... knowing that a man is **not justified by the works of the law** but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law **no flesh shall be justified.**

The righteous works of an unregenerated man are filthy rags to a Holy God. [NJC]

**JV McGee** This epistle requires all the mental make-up we have, and in addition, it must be bathed in prayer and supplication so that the Holy Spirit can teach us. Yet every Christian should make an effort to know Romans, for this book will ground the believer in the faith.

### **No Partiality with God. We are all Equal Sinners...**

Those having the Law must be **perfect**... Those who never heard the Law must be **perfect**

- **Q.** Why do humans feel the innate need to do good/be good? **A.** Law on our hearts/conscience

**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, 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)

- **Accountable Externally** Witness of **Creation**
- **Accountable Internally** Witness of **Conscience...thus every atheist is a liar**

Gentiles attempting to do good reveal the Law of God is written on man's heart; when an action is considered, even those without the written law trust their conscience to show them if the action is right or wrong thus not only confirming God's law as righteous but knowing or unknowingly making themselves accountable to keeping the entire law. **What is the purpose of the law? To frustrate us and make us run to Jesus.** [NJC]

**Romans 3:20** [Spoiler alert] ... by the deeds of the law **no flesh will be justified** in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

**Galatians 3:19** What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made... **Therefore the law was our tutor** to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are **no longer under a tutor.**

**Romans 3:21** But now the **righteousness of God apart from the law** is revealed

**Romans 10:4** ... Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to **everyone who believes.**

**We say "I can't keep the Law" ... God says "I know"**

**Romans 6:14** ... sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are **not under law but under grace.**

- **We are not to judge the motives of other...But God will...**
  1. **Glorify Self** Indignation/Tribulation/Anguish/Wrath Eternity home is Hell
  2. **Glorify God** Glory/Honor/Immortality/Salvation Eternal home Heaven

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

Christ is the end of the Law of Righteousness  
Striving for Perfection to Everyone who Believes

- **Law brings forth death:** Law is perfect but we are not

**The Law does not restrain sin in natural rebellious man  
...but in fact feeds it**

**1 Corinthians 15:56** The sting of death is sin, and the **strength of sin is the law.**

- Harder we try the more we fail/feel condemned

**Romans 8:1** There is therefore now **no condemnation** to those who are **in Christ Jesus**, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.<sup>2</sup> For the **law of the Spirit of life** in Christ Jesus has made me free from the **law of sin and death.**

- **Grace brings forth Life:** In Christ...

**John 15:4** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it

abides in the [tree] , neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the [tree], you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, **bears much fruit**; for without Me you can do nothing... 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, **that you bear much fruit**; so you will be My disciples.

**Galatians 5:22** ... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. **Against such there is no law.** 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

## **Are we Enjoying His Goodness and victory by Grace? Or Suffering Condemnation/Failure while trying to keep the Law?**

Have we obeyed the Gospel? Salvation by Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ  
Alone

The Just will be made alive by faith...**Resting in the finished work of  
Jesus on the Cross**

## **II. Jews Guilty as the Gentiles Religious as Guilty as Godless**

**17** Indeed you are **called a Jew, and rest on** [trust in] **the law**, and make your boast in God, 18 and know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, 19 and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the **form of knowledge and truth in the law.**

**Q.** Why is Paul writing this to mostly gentile church in Rome?

**A.** Religious predators have already arrived...

**2 Corinthians 11:2** ... I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from **the simplicity that is in Christ.** 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a **different spirit** which you have not received, or a **different gospel** which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

- **Recipients:** Those who believe they can **earn Salvation by keeping the Law of God**
  1. Call yourself a Jew, JW, LDS, SDA, Hebrew Roots, Messianic, etc.
  2. Pride yourself as a keeper of the law
  3. Boast of leading people out of darkness
  4. Claim to be an instructor of the foolish
  5. Teach a **form of**; i.e., **your own understanding of the law.**
- **Form:** gr. morphōsis lit. a forming, shaping...**twist meaning/purpose God's Law**

**2 Timothy 3:5** ... having a form of godliness but denying its power. And **from such people turn away!**

- **Same words** Jesus/Spirit/Baptism etc.

- **Different Spirit**      Legalistic Demonic Spirit

**Jesus to the Self-Righteous Religious...Your Father is the Devil**

**Matthew 23:15** "Woe to you... For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him **twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.**

- God's Word is to be proclaimed only by **God's Spirit filled people...not Legalists**

**Psalms 50:16** ... to the wicked God says: "What **right have you to declare My statutes, Or take My covenant in your mouth...**

**You claim to be those who keep the law...Command others to do the same  
Paul has a few questions for the BGG's...**

**21 You,** therefore, [you there] who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? **22** You who say, "Do not commit adultery," do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

- **How is trying to keep the law working for you?**

**Colossians 2:23** ...no value against the indulgence of the flesh. [more later]

**Acts 15:10** [Peter to legalists] Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? **11** But we believe that **through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved...**

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

- **Q. How much value** is focusing on the keeping of rules?
- **A. No value.** Trying harder **can never overcome** the flesh/sin...**Only Grace can**

As hard as you are trying...Do you still dishonor God by breaking the law?  
**That's what the world sees....**

**24** For "the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles [unbelievers] because of you," as it is written.

Those who make a big show claiming to keep God's law invite/incite the world to scrutinize/judge their lives, eventually mocking their certain failure and in turn the God they claim to serve. True Christians direct others to Christ knowing/admitting we only stand in/on the grace/mercy of God, not our own inadequate efforts. Yet grace allows us/empowers us to please God with our lives as we allow God's Spirit to work through us. **Thus, Jesus gets the glory as it should be..** [NJC]

Jews believed they were entitled to Salvation because...

**That they kept the Law of Moses** and were **Descendants of Abraham**

**Matthew 3:9** [Ain't gonna cut it] ... do not think to say to yourselves, '**We have Abraham as our father.**' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.



**The Law became an Idol.  
Religious Jews were calling people to Idolatry as cults today**

**Acts 15:1** ...certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, **you cannot be saved.**"

- **Jesus had a lot more to say to the religious:**

Seeking to be righteous by our deeds/Attempting to earn God's favor

Thus, nullifying the Cross.....**Ultimately making God a debtor to man/that don't work**

- **Matthew 23**

1. Do what they say not what they do
2. Lay heavy burdens on you/Lazy themselves
3. Things they do are to be seen by men
4. Dress/Sit to be seen/Called teacher/Praise one another...dead inside

**Jesus calls the Religious Hypocrites: Make-Believers putting on a show**

**John 5:44** How can you believe, who **receive honor from one another**, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?

**John 12:43** ... for they loved the **praise of men** more than the praise of God.

5. Keep people from heaven/Not going themselves
6. Opportunists; e.g., deceiving widows
7. Blind guides
8. Displaying no mercy/justice/faith
9. Self-indulgent and even...
10. Killing God's people... Paul knew the corruption of religion all too well

**Man-made Religion is the Enemy of God/His people. Religion puts man on the throne.  
Religious hypocrisy causes onlookers to blaspheme God**

- Only applying Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf will change an enemy of God into His friend

**Colossians 1:21** ... you, who once were **alienated and enemies** in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the **body of His flesh through death**, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight...

- It was not circumcision that saved Abraham...**it was Grace by Faith**

**James 2:23** ... the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "**Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.**" And **he was called the friend of God.** [Proved his faith by action]

**The just [those going to heaven] will live [be made alive] by Faith  
Faith in the Finished work of Jesus on the Cross with no help from us**

**SUMMARY Jews Guilty as the Gentiles** Religious as Guilty as the Godless

### III. Religion is Worthless and Worse

25 For circumcision is indeed profitable **if you keep the law**; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

- **Circumcision** was given to the Jews to set them apart to God

**Genesis 17:10** This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you **shall be circumcised**; 11 and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

- **Circumcision** never saved anyone                      Never meant to
- **Keeping the Sabbath** never saved anyone              Never meant to
- **Communion/Baptism** never saved anyone              Never meant to

The Jews morphed [changed the **form**/purpose] of the Law now viewing it as a **means of Salvation** rather than a **simple sign of obedience**. This change now obligated them to keep the entire Law. [NJC]

**Galatians 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." 11 But that **no one is justified by the law** in the sight of God is evident, for "**the just shall live by faith.**"

**Galatians 5:3** I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a **debtor to keep the whole law.**

**No one can keep the whole law...thus those who seek to be saved by the law are under a curse**

The righteous works of an unregenerated man are filthy rags to a Holy God. [NJC]

- **Religion/Religious Systems are Worthless... Christ is Priceless**

1. Joining a group                      ...never saved anyone...come out from among her!
2. Going to church                      ...never saved anyone...may blind?
3. Keeping the Sabbath                      ...never save anyone
4. **Baptism**                                      ...never saved anyone
5. **Communion**                                      ...never saved anyone...done in obedience after Salvation
6. Circumcision                                      ...never saved anyone

**Keeping the Law never saved anyone ever...Being Religious never saved anyone ever  
Only Jesus can do that...Only Jesus gives us a New Heart**

26 Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? 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? 28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is

outward in the flesh.<sup>29</sup> 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**.

No one has ever been saved from the **outside in. We don't need to be rehabilitated/reformed**  
**We need to be remade/reborn**

- **Oh?** Circumcision in the Letter of the Law is a picture of a Jesus **Cleansing our heart?**
- **Oh?** The Sabbath in the Letter was a picture of our **Rest in Jesus?**
- **Oh?** God will praise us as we let the **Spirit of Jesus** work through us?

### **Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law Reality/Substance of the mere Shadow**

**Colossians 2:11-23** In Him you were also **circumcised** with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, **12** buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. **13** And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, **14** having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **15** Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

- **He / Jesus...did what we could never do**
  1. Circumcised our hearts from dead works
  2. Took our sins on the cross was buried and rose again
  3. Made us alive with Him forgiving all our sins
  4. Nailed our rap sheet to the cross and took the penalty
  5. Proved His victory over the devil on our behalf by **rising from the dead**

**...16** So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, **17** which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

### **So... let no one lay a religious trip on you**

**...18** Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, **19** and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.

### **So... let no one steal/complicate a simple relationship w/Jesus**

**...20** Therefore, if [since] you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, **do you subject yourselves to regulations**— **21** "Do not

touch, do not taste, do not handle," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

**So... Don't let the religious costumes and performers intimidate you  
It doesn't work...It has no value and no power over sin**

- **Only Jesus** can cleanse our Hearts from sin/dead works
- Removal of Useless Flesh/Now Led by the Spirit/Now Born Again

No one has ever been saved from the **outside in**  
No one who has ever been saved by being good

**Everyone saved has been saved by the finished work of Jesus on the Cross**

**Deuteronomy 30:6** [Moses prophesied] ... the Lord your God will **circumcise your heart** and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, **that you may live.**

**Philippians 3:3** ... we are the circumcision, who **worship God in the Spirit**, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have **no confidence in the flesh...**

**Romans 7:6** But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the **newness of the Spirit** and not in the oldness of the letter.

**2 Corinthians 3:6** [Jesus] ... who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, **not of the letter** but of the Spirit; for the **letter kills**, but the **Spirit gives life.**

## **Righteousness Apart from the Law**

**Jeremiah 23:6 "The Lord our Righteousness."** It will always give a Christian the greatest calm, quiet, ease, and peace, to think of the perfect righteousness of Christ. How often are the saints of God downcast and sad! I do not think they ought to be. I do not think they would if they could always see their perfection in Christ. There are some who are always talking about corruption, and the depravity of the heart, and the innate evil of the soul. This is quite true, but why not go a little further, and remember that we are "perfect in Christ Jesus." It is no wonder that those who are dwelling upon their own corruption should wear such downcast looks; but surely if we call to mind that "Christ is made unto us righteousness," we shall be of good cheer. What though distresses afflict me, though Satan assault me, though there may be many things to be experienced before I get to heaven, those are done for me in the covenant of divine grace; there is nothing wanting in my Lord, Christ hath done it all. On the cross he said, "It is finished!" and if it be finished, then am I complete in him, and can rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory, "Not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." You will not find on this side heaven a holier people than those who receive into their hearts the doctrine of Christ's righteousness. When the believer says, "I live on Christ alone; I rest on him solely for salvation; and I believe that, however unworthy, I am still saved in Jesus;" then there rises up as a motive of gratitude this thought--"Shall I not live to Christ? Shall I not love him and serve him, seeing that I am saved by his merits?" "The love of Christ constraints us," "that they which live should not

henceforth live unto themselves but unto him which died for them." **If saved by imputed righteousness, we shall greatly value imparted righteousness.** [Spurgeon]

- Trade your **it** for a **Him**. Trade up from **religion** to **relationship**. **Praise of men** to **praise from God**

**One Standard.:** The Law of God kept Perfectly

**All guilty. God's Wrath being stored for all men unless God steps in...and He did**

**We glad for the Good News!**

Salvation by **Grace Alone** through **Faith Alone** in the finished work of **Christ Alone**