

Women's Bible Study – Homework & Lesson Notes

Lesson 4 | Romans 2:17-29, 3:1-8

God's Wrath, Pt 3: The wickedness of the religious

Name: _____

Date: _____

PREPARE YOUR HEART

Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom, insight, and understanding as you study this passage. Begin by reading the full text below before working through the questions.

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 2:17-20

17 Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and boast in God; **18** if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; **19** if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, **20** an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth –

1. Look up the following passages (Deuteronomy 7:6, Genesis 17:7, Psalm 147:19-20). Describe God's special relationship with the Jews in the Old Testament. What did God give to the Jews, and what was His overall posture toward them?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

2. What distinction do you see between the "ifs" in verses 2:17-18 and the "ifs" in verses 19-20? For example, IF the Jews have the light (See Proverbs 6:23), what should they be doing with the light (See Isaiah 42:6)?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 2:21-23

21 You, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? **22** You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? **23** You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? **24** As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

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4. What do the “if-then” questions assume in verses 2:21-23? What do they reveal about the Jews’ attitudes and the false ways they see themselves?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

5. These verses apply to all who consider themselves to be religious. If I insert my name instead of the Jews, in what areas of my life do I need to teach myself, stop stealing, rethink what I’m idolizing, and evaluate where I’m dishonoring God by disobeying His Word?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

6. Verse 2:24 tells us that the Jews’ actions have “blasphemed God’s name” among the Gentiles. For context, look up the verses that Paul is quoting from (Isaiah 52:5 and Ezekiel 36:22). Why is this such a big deal, and what does “God’s name” represent?

MY RESPONSE

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SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 2:25-29

25 Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. 26 So then, if those who are not circumcised keep the law’s requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised? 27 The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker. 28 A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. 29 No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person’s praise is not from other people, but from God.

7. In verses 2:17-24, we learned that God gave the Jews the law. What else did God give the Jews in verses 2:25-29, and what did it represent (Genesis 17:10-11)?

MY RESPONSE

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8. Paul is making a radical statement in verses 2:28-29 as he redefines what it means to be a Jew (or part of God's family). What has happened since the Old Testament that makes this possible, and what is the Holy Spirit's role in this (See Ephesians 2: 13, 19)?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

9. Again, these verses apply to those who consider themselves religious and look good on the outside, but their hearts are far from God. We would do well to ask ourselves, "Where is there a disconnect between my outward appearance and what's really going on inside me?"

(Extra credit: In Romans 2:17-29, Paul shatters the hypocrisy and self-confidence of the religious. The problem with being self-deluded, however, is that we are often blind to our incorrect thinking and behavior. Would you write a prayer asking God to reveal your own hypocrisy and self-righteousness, pray it this week, and bravely share the results with your group?)

MY RESPONSE

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SCRIPTURE FOCUS

Romans 3:1-8

1 What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? 2 Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God.

3 What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness? 4 Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar. As it is written:

"So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge."

5 But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.) 6 Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? 7 Someone might argue, "If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness and so

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increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?" 8 Why not say – as some slanderously claim that we say – "Let us do evil that good may result"? Their condemnation is just!

10. A huge help in unmasking our hypocrisy and self-delusion is to remember who God is and who we are as mankind. What attributes of God versus what characteristics of mankind do you see in these verses?

MY RESPONSE

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11. King David is quoted in verse 3:4 as he comes to grips with who he is in relation to who God is. Look up Psalm 51:4. What brings David to this awareness?

MY RESPONSE

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12. Paul tackles four more objections, or arguments, in verses 3:1-8. Pastor Martin Lloyd-Jones calls this passage one of the most difficult paragraphs in the Bible. Are any of these objections a hang-up for you, or do you find them all to be ridiculous? Have you ever used a ridiculous argument with God when you didn't want to change your thinking or behavior?

MY RESPONSE

LESSON NOTES

13. The section heading for Romans 3:1-8 in the Bible is "God's Faithfulness." Recalling Roman's theme (Romans 1:16-17), how does God's faithfulness to you help you trust him more and increase your faith even this week?

MY RESPONSE

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