

Religion does not save you

Romans 2:1-16

Introduction:

1. **Writer of the book** – The Apostle Paul to the church at Rome.
 2. **Theme of the book** – The Gospel (good news); It is the good announcement that God sent His Son to live a perfect life for you; to die a death for you; and to resurrect so that you can live forever.
 3. Here in Romans 2:1-16, Paul turns his attention to the Jewish people who were trying to get to God by their religion/Judaism.
 4. **Romans 2:1-16** commentary
 5. The point that Paul is making is that true Salvation is heart transformation, not behavior modification. Faith is not just words. Faith is not just checking a box of “dos and don’ts.” Conversion is not church membership or attendance; it is a time where the Holy Spirit comes to live within you and to change you from the inside out.
 6. Big Idea: **External practices of religion doesn’t equal inward transformation.**
- I. **Everyone is guilty and deserving of God’s judgment** (V. 1-3)
1. **Romans 2:1-3**
 2. **Romans 3:10** – “There is none righteous, no not one.”
 3. Paul is saying that all are without excuse and are worthy of the judgment of God: The ungodly and the religious – everyone!

4. No one is an exception to the judgment of God.

II. **God’s kindness leads us to repentance** (V. 4)

1. Paul is saying that many people suppose that God will be patient and longsuffering to them out of his kindness to them. This is the way that they use to word “How could a loving God send someone to hell.”
2. People love to defend themselves, and ignore how good God has already been to us. We weren’t deserving of a way, but God made a way. That is the goodness and patience of God on your behalf. That should motivate you to call upon the name of the Lord and to repent of your evil ways.
3. We were born into this world with a sin problem, and here is what we typically do with our sin:
 - **We justify it** – We blame those around us or circumstances around us. We make reason out of our part in our sin.
 - **We hide it** – We try and cover it up. We lie about it, and try to get people to believe something about us that is not true.
 - **We repent of it** –
4. **Repentance** – Repentance is the recognition of your sin, owning your part in the sin, and looking to Him as the only Savior who can pay for your sin. Trusting in Him to change conform you into a different person who won’t do that again.
5. **Psalm 51** – David did not justify his sin with “I was a pretty good king for the most part. He pleaded for forgiveness on the mercy of God.”

6. Repentance is necessary for Salvation. We are not saved by our good works, but we show our faith by our works. Attitudes and actions show whether someone is really a born-again believer or not. Good works by us are the outworking of Christ' work in us.

III. **God's judgment is no respecter of persons** (V. 11)

1. V. 6 ("Every man"); V. 9 ("Every soul of man"); V. 10 ("Every man") - The point that Paul is making in this text is that every man stands individually before God.
2. You do not get a free pass, because of your parent's religion, your race, or your social status. Every one of us stands individually before God one day to give an account for what we did with the Gospel.
3. **Illus:** Speeding Tickets (had 6 and they still give them to me even though I am a pastor) - The law is no respecter of persons.
4. **Illus:** The ground is level at the foot of the cross. We all come to Him the exact same way.

IV. **God's judgment is for everyone regardless of how they received the law** (V. 12-15)

1. Paul is pointing out that everyone is worthy of the judgment of God regardless of how you received the law. Whether you sinned without the law (Gentiles) or whether you sinned within the law (Jews) - all are worthy of the judgment of God.
2. To the Jews, Paul says that just being born into a Jewish family having the law doesn't save you, it is found in obedience to the law. In other words, believing will result in doing.

3.

Conclusion:

1. **Romans 1:16** - Paul says that "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto Salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."
2. Recap and close