

# **New Community Bible Study & Teaching**

## **“Why Religious People Are Doomed”**

Romans 2:17-29

### **Session 4**

## **New Community Bible Study & Teaching**

- **What is New Community?**  
A gathering of God's New Community of Jesus Followers here at Baycities Lomita!
- **To study and understand the great insights of the Christian life contained in God's Word!**
- **Study the NT books that give the New Community understanding to follow Jesus more closely.**
- **Grow in our understanding of our faith in Jesus**
- **Be motivated to love and serve Him & others more because of our time together!**

**We've titled our study series after the Book of Romans...**

# **“God’s Plan To Move Us From Lost Ones To Saved Ones To Sent Ones”**

## **5. Structure Of The Book:**

### **Our Outline of the Book**

1. Introduction & Theme Of Romans (1:1-17),
- 2. The Doctrine of Justification (1:18—5:11),**
3. The Doctrine Of Sanctification (5:12—8:39),
4. God’s Plan & Purpose For Israel (9:1—11:36),
5. Living The New Life As A Jesus Follower (12:1-15:13);
6. Conclusions & Greetings To Friends (15:14—16:27).

## 6. How We'll Study The Text:

1. Read It Together!
2. Look at it verse by verse for context and clarity.
3. Answer any questions the text brings up
4. Find Cross references for clarity & insight!
  - a. 2 Peter 3:15-16
5. Discover & explore the major teachings of each chapter
6. Understand them, and then apply them to our lives.
7. Progress & Confirm Our Outline of the Book or Letter!

### The Doctrine of Justification (PP)

**“The teaching of justification by faith is what separates biblical Christianity from all other belief systems. In every religion, and in some branches of what is called “Christianity,” man is working his way to God. Only in true, biblical Christianity is man saved as a result of grace through faith.**

The word **justified** means “pronounced or treated as righteous.” For a Christian, ***justification is the act of God not only forgiving the believer’s sins but imputing to him the righteousness of Christ.*** The Bible states in several places that justification only comes through faith (e.g., Romans 5:1; Galatians 3:24).

**Justification is not earned through our own works; rather, we are covered by the righteousness of Jesus Christ** (Ephesians 2:8; Titus 3:5). The Christian, being declared righteous, is thus freed from the guilt of sin.

**Justification is a completed work of God, and it is instantaneous,** as opposed to sanctification, which is an ongoing process of growth by which we become more Christ-like (the act of “being saved,” cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:23). Sanctification occurs after justification.

## Session 4- Study: (PP)

# “Why Religious People Are Doomed”

Let's Read Romans 2:17-29... I'll need some help!

### Overview of 17-29 Introduction

There is often this thought in the back of the mind of most people...And:

- It goes like this...
- Good people will eventually go to Heaven!
- Only bad people miss heaven!
- Most people are good... especially the religious!
- Therefore-certainly religious people make it to heaven!!

**In Our Study so Far... We've Looked at:**

- The Purpose for writing this letter- Rom.1:16-17
- We've seen- denying God makes a culture crumbles- Rom.1:18-32
- And- we see- even our secret life betrays us & makes us subject to God's Judgment- Rom.2:1-16

**Paul has made the case... that so far...**

- This sin thing... is everyone's problem!
- No good guys here!

**Now, he takes the incitement even farther...**

- To religious people... not any religious people...
- But to the Jews!!! His people!!!
- So religion doesn't get a pass... when it comes to sin!

**The reason why Justification** (being pronounced righteous by God at the moment of salvation through Faith In Jesus) **is such an important doctrine for Christians...**

- Is made even more clear by Paul's teaching here today!

## Read: Rom. 2:17-29- Read it!!!

Verse 2:17 Now you, if you call yourself a Jew;—

- Everybody loves security in life...
- Job, home, marital, financial- we boldly proclaim our independence
- Yet... we long for security!
  - o And eternal security... is really the top of the list!!!

### Yet we learned in Rom. Chapter 1... that sin puts us all at risk!

- What we do... deserves God's judgment... worthy of death!
- And Paul here... is flushing out his own people... the Jews!
- That they have put their hope in their religion- to save them!
- And now... He unwinds that hope!!!

### Calling yourself a Jew... (Judah) has some hopes & status in it...

- Word Judah- 12 tribes... Jew means... Praised Ones...
- They relied on the law... God's teaching- 1<sup>st</sup> 5 Books + the writings... Psalm, Proverbs, etc. and the prophets.
- 10 commandments sum up the Law of Moses- received by Moses!

But...

The Jews had long ago... set aside their God given-purpose- That is:

**Gen 12:3**“I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

The confusion for the Jewish leaders was spiritual: they thought: being Abraham's physical descendants made them his spiritual descendants! It did not!

And...the Jews thought physical lineage was enough...so they hoarded the God message! And they chose to not share their blessing-insights to God- with the rest of the world!

**In fact... when Jesus showed up... The Son of God- Messiah:**

- Instead of rejoicing and welcoming Him, they killed Him!
- He exposed their hypocrisy & error!!

Also... 17 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;

Paul continues to describe the Jewish Relationship to the Law... and what Jewish people... learned about the Law

- In fact... the Jews became “experts” in the law!

**But then, since no one could fully “keep” the commands of the law perfectly... their teachers, Rabbi’s... made a fatal decision:**

- Rabbi’s began teaching that merely learning the facts of the law was sufficient to please God!
- 
- Then, some taught that the mere possession of it in the form of written scrolls was sufficient to please God!
- Still others taught that Jews were safe from God’s judgment simply because as a people they were specially chosen recipients and custodians of God’s Law. Obedience was not necessary!

Read Jeremiah 7:3-7... (Look up and read this)

**What we learn is:** God’s spiritual security & safety was not found in the Temple but in God Himself... and in faithful obedience to the true righteousness which His temple represented!

**The Jews had become self-righteous...**

- They justified themselves through compromised reasoning!
- They were satisfied knowing God’s will and not obeying it!
- They knew much... but obeyed little! That was their situation!

**They learned God’s Law as children... but hearing is not doing!**

- Not much has changed... has it!

“Be doers of the word & not hearers only, deceiving yourselves!!” Ja.1:22

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...

**And... the Jews... saw themselves as the best to teach others the Law!  
Teaching:**

- **The spiritually blind...** (Jesus called the Pharisees blind guides!)
- **Those in darkness...** ( It was the role God had for them- Isa.42:6)
  - o Jesus' followers- called to be- light of the world- Matt.5:14-16
  - o God gives His Followers light for themselves & others!
- **The foolish-** Gentiles... beneath them...status wise!
- **Little children...** or the immature...
  - o Teach them about God & help them remove idols from their lives

**And... you have been given... the best stuff possible... for life and pleasing God!**

- Law= the embodiment of knowledge & truth- Divine Truth!
  - o God revealed Himself & His plan for living life
  - o It pleased the Creator & Law Giver
  - o It was the best life possible on earth!
  - o The Law was theirs to possess & to teach others about God!
- **Paul's saying: You know about God! His revelation so far!!!**
- **You Jews are spiritually rich!**
- **God has selected you to be the mouth piece for His message!**
- **And then Paul asks this undressing question to his readers:**

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?

- **The Jews Had The Law & here's what they did in light of it**
  - o **They taught others... but don't learn themselves!**
    - Definition of a hypocrite- don't be this!
  - o **They preached God's commands- but didn't live by them!**
    - Ultimate shirking of responsibility of a teacher!
    - You first of all... model what you teach... to others!
    - **They fumbled the really big commands!**
    - **Let's learn from Paul indictment of the Jews!**

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."

**Not obeying God's law...** being teachers of it...

- Not only condemned the Jewish teachers- they failed God's standard

**But even worse...**

- They messed up the people God had wanted them to reach!
- **The Gentiles...** who had no knowledge of the God of Israel...
- Gentiles wanted nothing to do with their God- because of the behavior & example of Jewish people & leaders!
- How devastating... to demotivate others from following your God
- Because of how you represent Him!

**They failed as religious teachers... sin kept them in check!**

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.

### **What is significant about circumcision?**

- Circumcision was God's "appointed sign of the covenant," signifying Abraham's commitment to the Lord.
- It is a self-maledictory oath.

**"If I am not loyal in faith and obedience to the Lord, may the sword of the Lord cut off me and my offspring as I have cut off my foreskin." Gen 17:10-14**

The Jews have come to think that circumcision is a guarantee of God's Favor.

**What good is an oath if it is not kept It is better not to take an oath than to be condemned by it.**

**Illustration:** there is a great difference between infidelity in an exclusive relationship and one that is unclearly exclusive. Imagine how it makes God feel...when we behave like this towards Him

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.

- **God doesn't want your oaths He wants your heart.**

### **How do I circumcise my heart?**

- By the Spirit. The true sign of belonging to God is not an outward mark on the physical body, but the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit within. This is what Paul meant by "circumcision of the heart." Deut. 30:6
- **It doesn't matter who your Daddy is. Your Judaism isn't what saves you. The law isn't what saves you.**
- Remember Romans ch 2:11 "For God does not show favoritism."

### **John 5:39-40 (PP)**

**39 You search the Scriptures because you think in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me; 40 and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life**

Such a person's praise is not fm other people, but from God.

- **You cannot declare yourself Justified. That is something only God can do.**
- The good news is that God has already made the way that we may be declared Justified through faith in Jesus.
- Paul is writing to a Mega Church to plead with them to not be distracted by their own outwardly "holiness." To not forget that salvation is from faith in Christ alone.

## Conclusion

### **We now know why... Even for Jews...**

- That Religious People, Like All People... Are Doomed!
- They are sinners... in need of a savior!
- Not even family ties... can assure your salvation...
- Everyone suffers from the plight & consequences of sin!!

Next Time- Part 5- Romans 3:1-20... Nathan Holmes

6/09/19

**“God’s Law & Brokenness- What’s The Story?”**

**Close and Pray**