

Sunday, 10-01-2023

2023-2024 Fall Quarter
Unit II: Faith Triumphs, Law Fails

Keeping the Law Inwardly
Bible Background: Romans 2:1-29
Printed Text: Romans 2:12-24, 28-29 KJV/NIV
Devotional Reading: Ezekiel 36:25-30

Prayer: *God of grace and mercy, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus to die for us, allowing us to have fellowship with You. Give us a heart to always please You by walking in Your will. Thank You for Your guidance toward this end. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

Unifying Lesson Principle:

1. People hold conscious and unconscious assumptions of right and wrong. *What motivates the choice of one over the other?* Paul teaches that faith can guide our choices and inform our convictions about what is right.
 - a. God designed me; allowed me to go through experiences so that I could put ALL my trust in Him; making better decisions. Is Jesus Christ receiving the glory when I do right (**Matthew 15:2-9; Mark 4:13-20; 2 Corinthians 4:1-4**)?
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Lesson Objectives:

1. Critically evaluate their assumptions of “right” and “wrong.”
 2. Internalize God’s law so that it is written on their hearts.
 3. Prayerfully examine their consciences before making major life choices.
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Devotional Reading: Thursday: God Will Give the Spirit – Ezekiel 36:25-30; Romans 8:1-9

- Not taking the Father’s cleansing seriously jeopardizes my salvation. Is my lack of increase caused by pride, arrogance, and disobedience? Holding onto old (sinful) habits hinders the work of the Lord in me while in my new life.
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Exposition and Application of the Scripture: Keeping the Law Inwardly – Romans 2:12-24, 28-29

A. God’s Righteous Judgment Stands for All (vv. 12-16)

- What has been passed down through to generations regarding God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit? What am I passing down to the generations after me about Jesus Christ? Ignorance isn’t an excuse when God the Father designed me with a moral compass (**Matthew 7:21-29; Luke 18:9-14**). Just being a believer isn’t enough to keep salvation (**James 1:22-27**).

B. Religious Privilege Is Refuted (vv. 17-20)

- Going through the religious motions/actions isn’t enough (**Romans 10:2-4**). Am I being treated different because of my walk with Jesus’ or lack thereof (**John 5:39-47**)? Am I being critical of others because of what I’m not doing (**Matthew 7:1-5**)?

C. A Heart in the Right Place (vv. 21-24)

- What are the five (5) thought provoking questions asked by Paul? Internal pride hinders God’s work through me (**Proverbs 16:16-23**). Whether literal/figurative don’t add/subtract from the Word of God for personal gain (**Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32**).

D. Will the Real Jew Stand Up? (vv. 28-29)

- Am I too prideful to be corrected? Ignoring the Law is different from observing the Law. Is my heart circumcised enough to do what is pleasing and acceptable to the Lord (**Psalms 51**)?