

Dear Friends and Family,

*“He is not a Jew who is one outwardly...
But he is a Jew who is one inwardly.”*

Romans 2:28-29

Paul was the Apostle to the Gentiles.

He took this calling very seriously.

Paul was the perfect candidate to go to the Jews, Philipians 3:4-6.

Yet God sent him to the Gentiles, Acts 9:15-16.

As we are studying through the book of Exodus on Sunday morning,
and have just come to the 10 commandments,
it is only fitting that this week we find ourselves
in the second half of Romans 2 for our devotional.

Pastor’s Point of View

The big idea: **What saves you?**

Day 1 - READ Romans 2:17-20

1. What correlation is Paul making between the Jew and the Law?
2. What does Paul say is embodied in the law in the last half of verse 20?
3. The terminology used in verse 18-20 is very important to understand. This is the same language used in **Acts 8:31**. When the Ethiopian Eunuch is asked by Philip if he understands what he is reading, the Ethiopian replies, “How can I unless someone guides me?”

The term used there has the connotation of leading a blind man as if by the hand.

Have you ever had to do this?

Katie had a college friend who was completely blind. She held Katie’s arm as Katie would guide her around the cafeteria, warning her about chairs sitting in the walkway, people coming toward her, and large columns to avoid. Katie helped her select her food, suggesting choices that looked more edible!

This Scriptural term should bring to mind the same concept.

Teaching, guiding, enlightening.

Paul uses multiple terms to make this point extremely clear:

The law is to be the guide by which we teach others to follow Christ.

Day 2 - READ Romans 2:21-24

1. Paul uses here some of the ten commandments to summarize the law.
2. For a refresher, turn to Exodus 20:1-17.
3. Summarize what these verses are saying. What is the point?
4. Read Ezekiel 36:20-21, what is God concerned with?
5. God's holiness is of utmost importance and His followers must be holy as He is holy.
6. How do the actions of believers affect others?

Day 3 - READ Romans 2:25-27

1. What is Paul's point in verse 25?
2. Can anyone keep the law?
3. Does circumcision save anyone?
4. Likewise, does it matter if someone keeps the law but is not circumcised?

Paul goes one step further, and distinguishes between rituals of culture vs. actions of conviction.

While it may appear as though Paul is using verbal gymnastics, he is making some very clear points. As the Apostle to the Gentiles, writing to the church in Rome, knowing there would be both Jewish and Gentile converts, he was clarifying the importance of the law while relegating it as non salvific.

Circumcision may seem like a foreign topic to some, but relate it to a spiritual ritual of today. Going to church will not save you. Practicing lent will not save you. Tithing all you have will not save you. These are all good things, but only faith in Christ and his death on the cross, brings you into right standing with God.

This point becomes vitally important in Romans 3, as Paul explains justification by faith alone.

Day 4 - READ Romans 2:28-29

1. Paul participated in the persecution of those who truly followed God. He did so with an excellent Jewish education, devout practices, and high religious standards. However, even with all of this knowledge, Paul did not *know* Christ. In this passage, Paul establishes that following God is not cultural, hereditary, through education or ritual.
2. Remembering that God chose the Israelites to be His people, specifically so that they could be witnesses for Him into the world, Paul, as Saul, was doing the exact opposite (Acts 8).
3. Only through Paul's miraculous meeting with Christ did he realize the depth of his sin (Acts 9).
4. Therefore, no one knows the heart of this message in Romans 2 better than Paul. He followed the Law to the letter, as a devout Jew, circumcised on the 8th day, set to become

a great Jewish leader of his time. But as he clearly explains in this Scripture, salvation is through Christ alone, not through any other manner. And now, God has sent His Son, opened salvation to all, and grafted Gentiles into the branch of Abraham.

5. Read Ephesians 2:11-22. Compare this passage with Romans 2. What similarities do you see? What questions do you have? I welcome questions and comments and will do my best to answer them in a timely manner.

Imagine with me for a minute.

Let's say that when you die, you find yourself standing before God, and he asks you this question. "Why should I let you into my heaven?"

Think critically about this for a moment. What would your response be?

Would it be...

I was a good person.
I did a lot of good things.
I didn't break any of the commandments.
I attended church my whole life.
I raised great kids.
I was good to others.
My good outweighed my bad.
I believed in God.
My whole family was Christian.
I read the entire Bible 57 times.
I was circumcised.
I was a Jew.
I was a "Christian".

What is the ONLY response God will accept?
(Hint: it's not on the list)

Read below for the answer...

Romans 10:9-13

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.

For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified,
and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.
As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—
the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,
for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Walking in Faith,

Pastor Matt

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*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **RUN** with endurance the race that is set before us -- Hebrews 12:1*