

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

DATE: November 18, 2020

Wednesday Class: "Romans: God's **Good News** for the World"

A Righteousness from God: Needed (1:18-3:20)

What's wrong with the world? The wrath of God against all humankind.

- First (1:18-32), he portrays **depraved** gentile society in its idolatry, immorality & anti-social behavior.
- Second (2:1-16), he addresses **critical** moralizers (whether Gentiles or Jews), who profess high ethical standards & apply them to everybody except themselves.
- Third (2:17-3:8), he turns to **self-confident** Jews, who boast of their knowledge of God's law, but do not obey it.
- Fourth (3:9-20), he encompasses **the whole** human race and concludes that we are all guilty and without excuse before God.

GOD'S WRATH AGAINST "SELF-RIGHTEOUS JEWS" (2:17-3:8)

Here the apostle Paul confronts the Jews head-on. They represent all those who depend on religion to get them to heaven. They thought they would escape God's judgment, but (like so many) what they were depending on (trusting in) for their eternal security was a false security. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death" (Prov. 12:14; 16:25).

The False Securities on which Jews Relied (2:17-29)

NIV Study Bible: "The presentation takes the form of a dialogue. Paul knew how a self-righteous Jew thought for he had been one himself. He cites one advantage after another that Jews considered to be unqualified assets. But those assets became liabilities when there was no correspondence between profession & practice. Paul applied to the Jew the principles of judgment set forth in verses 1-16."

1. The False Security of _____ (2:17)

The Jews thought they were secure simply because they were _____!

A. _____

They saw themselves as superior to Gentiles and considered themselves to be the only people God loved. Instead of viewing their status (as God's chosen people) as a trust from God, they viewed their calling as a right. They considered their status a reward for their goodness, not because of God's sovereign election.

B. _____

They had no desire to share their God-given truths & blessings with the rest of the world, much less be used by the Lord as a means through which he would draw all nations to Himself.

C. _____

As heirs of God's promise to Abraham (as well as heirs of the other unconditional covenants), they believed they were excused and would escape God's judgment simply because they were born Jewish. It was their birthright.

2. The False Security of _____ (2:17-24)

A. Their thinking (vss. 17-20). Notice: “if you . . .” (vss. 17 [2x], 18, 19)

The Jews had a knowledge of the Law. They had “in the Law the embodiment of knowledge & truth.” So, they considered themselves “guides ... lights ... instructors ... teachers.”

B. Their problem (vss. 21-24). Notice: “you, then . . .” (vss. 21-24)

The Jews themselves didn’t obey the Law; it made little impact upon their own lives!

3. The False Security of _____ (2:25-29)

Circumcision was the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 17). Here’s the problem; the Jews had come to depend on the ritual, and not the relationship with God (est. by faith) which the sign symbolized. They depended on the ritual, but behind it there was no reality.

After demolishing the false securities on which Jews relied, Paul anticipated . . .

The Strong Objections the Jew Raised (3:1-8)

1. Objection #1: If these things (being Jewish; having the Law; the religious rite of circumcision) do not guarantee protection from God’s judgment, is there any advantage in being a Jew?

Paul’s Response: Jews “have been entrusted with the very words of God.”

A. What a _____!

“**Entrusted**” means custodians/guardians of them; & transmitters of “the very words of God.”

B. What a _____!

Israel’s history is one long record of unbelief & disobedience. Paul develops this theme in Romans 10:1-4, 16-21.

2. Objection #2: What is some did not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God’s faithfulness? If God’s chosen people are unfaithful, does that necessarily mean that God cannot be faithful to His promises? Has Israel’s unbelief canceled God’s Word?

Paul’s Response:

A. Psa. 116:11 – God is (remains) true (faithful) though every man is a liar.

B. Psa. 51:4 – God’s punishment of sin exhibits his faithfulness to his righteous character.

C. Rom. 9-11 – The concept of God’s faithfulness (God will never break His covenant) despite Israel’s unbelief (unfaithfulness) is developed more fully in Romans 9-11.

3. Objection #3: If God is honored in judging my sin, then I am really doing Him a favor by sinning. Instead of judging me, He should let me sin that He might be glorified even more. He certainly is not righteous to judge me. In fact, isn’t He unfair to punish me?

Paul’s Response:

A. Human reasoning is _____.

B. Sinners will not _____ God’s judgment. Their condemnation is deserved.