

Blasphemous Moralizers
Romans 2:17-29

Getting Started

- ❖ Jerry opened up his message with comments about events that have affected our church in the last couple of weeks. Near the end of these opening comments he spoke to the danger of deriving one's morality from society or personal opinion instead of scripture. How does Romans 2:14-16 help us understand how the irreligious person's conscience operates? How does this affect how you would interact with someone over moral issues if they don't have some kind of "scriptural authority"?
- ❖ **Opening Prayer Time:** Please spend some time to start this evening praying for our church and school ministries and the crisis management team responsible for leading us through this time of difficulty.

Digging Deeper

- ❖ **Read Romans 2:17-29.**
 - What "outwardly religious" duties do Christians today rely on for (false) assurance of salvation? Why are these prominent? Which ones are you tempted to rely on?
 - What aspects of this passage reveal ways that the Jews "went above the line" of Scripture — that is, added to what the Bible says? What aspects of this passage reveal ways the Jews "went below the line" of Scripture — that is, rationalized failure to live up to what the Bible requires? How does Paul call them back to what the Scripture actually teaches?
 - What are some things that Christians "teach others" but need to "teach themselves" (see 2:21)? How can we recognize this hypocrisy without becoming cynical? How do we address such hypocrisies without becoming adversaries of our brothers and sisters, but as those who are on their side?
 - We belong to God because of the internal work of the Holy Spirit (2:29). In what ways do you see your heart in need of more of the transforming work of the Holy Spirit? If that change happened, how would your life change?
 - Paul says that according to the gospel, God will judge people by Christ (2:16). Why is this "good news"? How should this affect the way we live on a daily basis?

(Over)

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Think About It!

Human beings are natural-born moralists, and moralism is the most potent of all the false gospels. The language of “values” is the language of moralism and cultural Protestantism...This is the religion that produces cultural Christians, and cultural Christianity soon dissipates into atheism, agnosticism, and other forms of non-belief. Cultural Christianity is the great denomination of moralism, and far too many church folk fail to recognize that their own religion is only cultural Christianity – not the genuine Christian faith. (Dr. Albert Mohler)

Praying Together

This week, break into subgroups according to gender and spend time sharing personal burdens and praises, then pray for one another. As everyone shares requests, be prepared to pray for the person to your left.

(Note: In this year’s study of Romans, our study questions are being inspired by or derived from books, commentaries and bible studies authored by: Max Lucado, John MacArthur, R.C. Sproul, Jack Hayford and Tim Keller.)

WORSHIP RESOURCE

October 27, 2019 | 20th Sunday after Pentecost

WORSHIP SONGS

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

Words by Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933)

Music by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect Thy
rays; stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea.
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

Mortals join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

DEATH WAS ARRESTED

*Words and Music by Brandon Coker, Adam Kersh,
Paul Taylor Smith and Heath Balltzglier, 2015*

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin; lost without hope with
no place to begin. Your love made a way to let mercy come in
when death was arrested and my life began.

Ash was redeemed only beauty remains. My orphan heart was
given a name. My mourning grew quiet, my feet rose to dance
when death was arrested and my life began.

*Oh, Your grace so free washes over me. You have made me new,
now life begins in You. It's your endless love pour down on us.
You have made us new, now life begins with You.*

Released from my chains, I'm a prisoner no more. My shame
was a ransom He faithfully bore. He cancelled my debt and He
called me His friend, when death was arrested and my life began.

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross; darkness rejoiced as
though Heaven had lost. But, then Jesus arose with our freedom
in hand, that's when death was arrested and my life began.

KING OF KINGS

*Words and Music by Brooke Ligertwood, Scott Ligertwood,
and Jason Ingram, 2019*

In the darkness we were waiting, without hope, without light,
till from heaven You came running. There was mercy in Your eyes.
To fulfill the law and prophets, to a virgin came the Word
from a throne of endless of glory to a cradle in the dirt.

*Praise the Father, praise the Son, praise the Spirit, three in one.
God of glory, majesty, praise forever to the King of kings.*

To reveal the kingdom coming and to reconcile the lost,
to redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross.

For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side. Knowing this
was our salvation, Jesus, for our sake You died.

And the morning that You rose all of heaven held its breath till that
stone was moved for good, for the Lam had conquered death.
And the dead rose from their toms, and the angel stood in awe, for
the souls of all who'd come to the Father are restored.

And the Church of Christ was born, then the Spirit lit the flame.
Now this Gospel truth of old shall not kneel, shall not faint.
By His blood and in His Name, in His freedom I am free,
for the love of Jesus Christ has resurrected me.

CHRIST IS MINE FOREVERMORE

Words and Music by Jonny Robinson and Rich Thompson, 2016

Mine are days that God has numbered; I was made to walk with Him.
Yet, I look for worldly treasure and forsake the King of kings.
But mine is hope in my Redeemer; though I fall, His love is sure.
For Christ has paid for every failing; I am His forevermore.

Mine are tears in times of sorrow, darkness not yet understood.
Through the valley I must travel where I see no earthly good. Mine
is peace that flows from heaven, and the strength in times of need.
I know my pain will not be wasted; Christ completes His work in me.

Mine are days here as a stranger, pilgrim on a narrow way. One with
Christ I will encounter harem and hatred for His name. But mine is
armor for this battle, strong enough to last the war. And He has said
He will deliver safely to the golden shore.

And mine are keys to Zion city where beside the King I walk. For
there my heart has found its treasure; Christ is mine forevermore.
Come rejoice now, O my soul, for His love is my reward.
Fear is one and hope is sure; Christ is mine forevermore.

DAILY READINGS | BOOK OF COMMON WORSHIP

SUNDAY | Ps. 108; Jer. 44:15-30; Acts 18:24-19:7; Luke 10:25-37

MONDAY | Ps. 73; Jer. 45:1-5; Revelation 1:4-20; Matt. 12:43-50

TUESDAY | Ps. 12; Ezra 5:1-17; Revelation 4:1-11; Matt. 13:1-9

WEDNESDAY | Ps. 96; Ezra 6:1-22; Revelation 5:1-10; Matt. 13:10-17

THURSDAY | Ps. 26; Nehemiah 1:1-11; Rev. 5:11-6:11; Matt. 13:18-23

FRIDAY | Ps. 84; Nehemiah 2:1-20; Rev. 6:12-7:4; Matt. 13:24-30

SATURDAY | Ps. 63; Nehemiah 4:1-23; Rev. 7:4-17; Matt. 13:31-35



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