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"Even the 'Religious' Need the Gospel, Part 1"

Romans 2:1-6

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Background

We enter back into Romans this Sunday, a study we're calling The Gospel for all Seasons. Wherever we are in life, Romans speaks into our lives. We pick up this week in chapter 2, in the middle of Paul describing the universal brokenness of all humanity, and the universal need for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Join us this Sunday as we consider our own need for the Gospel.

Sermon Text:

Romans 2:1-6

You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. ² Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. ³ So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? ⁴ Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

⁵ But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ God "will repay each person according to what they have done."^[a]

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday Questions:

1. Many people think Rom verses 1:16-17 are the thesis statement of the entire book of Romans. Paul is *“not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.”* Could you share your thoughts on this Gospel of Jesus Christ? How is it different from the other four gospels in the Bible?

2. In our sinfulness, there is the tendency to be critical of everyone else except ourselves, the tendency toward self-righteousness, the tendency to sit in judgement over others. How are you susceptible to this tendency?

3. Mother Theresa once said, “If you judge others, you have no time to love them.” What does Jesus say about judging others?

4. God has called his image-bearers not “just know about the good or to talk about the good, but to *do* the good. *“There will be glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism.”* (Rom 2:10-11)

- What can we do? Shawn said we need soft hearts. How do we soften our heart?

- What word is repeated in the conclusion of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in Mt.7:21?

- What do we learn about the relationship between faith in Jesus and what we do?

5. Shawn concluded that everyone is in the same boat, whether we are a religious Jew with the Mosaic law or a Gentile with only our conscience to guide us, we all need the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God knows all of our judgmentalism and envy and greed and lust and gossips..., yet He still loves us. In fact Jesus died for us. What can we do but to come and plead for God’s mercy and forgiveness. Shawn led us to confess our brokenness to God and read our confessions together.

a. We confess that we name the name of Christ, but we do not make his presence real in our lives.

- b. We confess that we pay lip service to your grace, but we refuse to offer it to others.
- c. We confess that we claim to live by faith, but we secretly want to have our own way.
- d. We confess that we want to be free, but we avoid the discipline that would set us free.
- e. We confess that we lay claim to your promises in our need, but we feel no compassion for the needs of others.

Which one of the above confessions resonates with you the most and you want to ask for God's forgiveness?