

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“The Jew Without Excuse”

Romans 2:17-3:19

Pastor John Miller

Main Point: Being a Jew, being religious, or being a good teacher of the law cannot save anyone, because the whole world stands guilty before God and needs the righteousness of Christ.

Introduction

- Why is it difficult to convince a religious person that they need Jesus?

Understanding

1. The Law Cannot Save You. Read Romans 2:17-24.

- a. What did the Jew take pride in, according to verses 17-20? What does Paul ask them in verses 21-23?
- b. What does it show the world when someone knows God's Word but does not live like it?
- c. Pastor John pointed to David and Nathan, and to verse 24, to show that a believers' sin can cause God's name to be blasphemed. How can the way we live bring honor or dishonor to the Lord's name?
- d. Luke 12:48 says “To whom much is given, much is required,” How does this verse apply to the Jews? Where might it apply to you?
- e. Why did the Jews believe they were better than the Gentiles?

2. Rites and Rituals Can't Save You. Read Romans 2:25-29 .

- a. What makes circumcision of value in verse 25 and when does it become uncircumcision?
- b. What does Paul mean in verses 28-29 when he states “He is a Jew who is one inwardly” and “circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter.”??
- c. Baptism and communion, like circumcision, are outward rites that cannot save us. Why is it tempting to trust in outward things, and what does Philippians 3:3 say we should do instead?
- d. What is the distinction between outward and inward identity?

3. Arguments Cannot Save the Jew. Read Romans 3:1-9.

- a. In verses 1-2, what advantage does Paul say the Jews had? Why should Christians be thankful to the Jewish people?
- b. In verses 3-4, Paul asks whether unbelief can cancel God's faithfulness. What does his answer “Let God be true but every man a liar” tell us about God?
- c. The sermon said that some of the Jewish objections in verses 5-8 amounted to “the end justifies the means.” Why does that kind of reasoning fail, and where do we hear it today?
- d. What conclusion does Paul reach in verse 9 about Jews and Gentiles?

4. The Whole World is Guilty. Read Romans 3:10-19.

- a. What did Paul list as unrighteous acts in verses 10-18?

- b. How does it help to know that if you are saved, salvation is of the Lord and that God is the one who reaches out to us?
- c. Do most people in the world think they are righteous or unrighteous? How would you explain to someone that they are not righteous?
- d. In Philippians 3, Paul counts his impressive religious resume as refuse compared to knowing Christ. What are the things in your own life -- good things, even -- that you might be tempted to lean on instead of resting entirely in Christ's righteousness?
- e. Why do you think God gets such little fear today?

Application

- How does grace transform us in ways that the law cannot?