



Week's Aim: *The power of the gospel to save the lost: the failure of religion.*

Topic for Day 1: An overview of this week's passage – Romans 2:1-3:8

1. What key words or phrases do you see repeated in this passage?
2. What reason does Paul give in verse 1 that these people are without an excuse?
3. What religious terms are used in this passage?

Application 1: What will you apply to your life this week from the sermon?

Topic for Day 2: God judges all people according to His truth, their actions, and without favoritism. – 2:1-16

1. In verses 1-5, how do you see that God's judgment is based on truth?
2. In verses 6-10, what actions bring God's blessings and what actions bring His wrath and indignation?
3. In verses 11-16, in what ways is God's judgment different than the way people judge?

Application 2: Is there something you do that takes advantage of God's *kindness, tolerance, and patience* (vs. 2:4)? How will you begin correcting that today?

Topic for Day 3: Paul questions the Jewish leader's for relying on their possession the law. - 2:17-24

1. List some of the advantages the Jews had been given by God regarding the law:
2. In verses 21-23, list the comparisons of "You who" with the corresponding questions "do you" and state what you learn from this:
3. Read Exodus 20:1-17 and try to identify the commandments Paul accuses the Jews of breaking:
4. What is the result of anyone who violates the standards they proclaim (vs. 24)?

Paul's Letter to the Romans

Application 3: Name one way you have fallen short of what you believe the Bible teaches? What are some advantages God has given you that you can share with others this week?

Topic for Day 4: The failure of religion – 2:25-29

1. If you would like a challenge, use your Bible references to look up circumcision, what it is, why it was important, and then explain why the Jews might be proud of it.

2. Reading verses 25-29, identify terms we use in our religious sacraments that could be substituted for the word *circumcision* in these verses. What is the caution Paul states in 25?

3. In these verses Paul has described the character of a *true Jew*. What are your thoughts as to how this applies to you today?

4. Paul has described the character of a true Jew. How would you describe the character of a true Christian?

Application 4: Is there a "religious practice" that you need to move from head knowledge to a heart experience? If there is, how will you begin today to make that change? If not, write a prayer of thanks:

Topic for Day 5: God is faithful in spite of the Jews failure in their religion. – 3:1-8

1. Why was being entrusted with the *very words of God* (vs. 1) an advantage to the Jews?

2. What advantage do you have as a result of owning and reading your Bible?

3. What was Paul saying in his argument regarding our unrighteousness and God's righteousness? Give an example of such logic used today by people:

Application 5: How have you seen God being faithful to you even when you were unfaithful to Him? How could you share that with someone today?