

Romans

Lesson 3: Romans 2:17–3:20

Have you ever tried to share the gospel with someone who thinks they are a good person? Even when you help them understand that they have sinned against God, they will often conclude that there are bad people in this world, but they are still good. There is something in the heart of fallen man that says, “I am a good person.” It is called pride. Pride passes judgment upon others without looking in the mirror. This is what the Jews were guilty of. However, Paul says that everyone—Gentile and Jew—stands guilty before God. After Paul explains that the Gentiles are guilty before God (1:18–32), he continues to show that Jews are guilty before God as well (2:1–3:8). Then he explains that the whole world stands guilty before God (3:9–20). Let’s dive in and see what Paul has to say about mankind’s position before a holy God.

➤ **Read Romans 2:17–24**

1. In verse 17, what three ways does Paul describe the Jews he is addressing?
2. In verse 18, what three ways does Paul describe the Jews he is addressing?
3. In what five ways did the Jews display their “confidence” in verses 19–20?
4. In verse 21a, what is Paul condemning the Jews of?
5. In verses 21b–22, what three areas of sin are the hypocritical Jews guilty of?

6. In verses 23–24, what is Paul’s conclusion of these hypocritical Jews?

Application: Just as a Jew is not saved because they are raised Jewish, people are not saved because they are raised Christian. What would you say to someone who thinks they are saved because they were raised Christian?

Application: What are sins that God condemns, but “churches” approve of today? What kind of message does this send to the watching world?

➤ **Read Romans 2:25–3:8**

7. In verses 25–27, what does Paul say is better than the religious ceremony of circumcision?

8. In verses 28–29, Paul uses “Jew” to refer to a true child of God. What are the marks of a true child of God?

9. In 3:1–2, what advantage does a Jew have over a Gentile?

Application: Is there an advantage to raising children in a Bible teaching church? Why?

10. In verses 3–4, what does Paul tell us about God?

11. In verses 5–8, how does Paul answer his critics who accused him of saying, “Let us do evil that good may come”? What will God do to all sinners?

Application: There is a teaching today called Free Grace Theology (also called “easy believism”). This teaches that repentance is not necessary for salvation, but all one must do is “believe.” How would you answer someone who holds this view? What are the dangers of that teaching?

➤ **Read Romans 3:9–20**

12. In verse 9, what charge does Paul reiterate?

13. In verses 10–12, Paul, quotes the Old Testament to show the universal condemnation of man. Fill in the blanks with the four “none” phrases in these verses.

“There is none _____.”

“There is none _____.”

“There is none _____.”

“There is none _____.”

14. In verses 13–14, what part of body is used to show man’s sinfulness? What does Jesus say about this in Matthew 12:34?

15. In verses 15–17, what part of body is used to show man’s sinfulness? Read Matthew 5:21–22. What does Jesus reveal about man’s heart?

16. In verse 18, what part of body is used to show man’s sinfulness? What is the root cause of man’s evil words and evil deeds?

Application: How do these verses help you understand our world today?

17. In verse 19, what is Paul’s final verdict?

18. According to verse 20, what is the purpose of the Law?

Application: How would you respond to someone who says, “I know I am going to heaven because I am a religious person”?

Application: How would you respond to someone who says, “I know I am going to heaven because I am a good person”?

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.