



# ROMANS

Being a Christian instead  
of being Religious

## 1. Grasping the contrast

Romans 1:1-17

- Religion and Christianity completely different. Man is made to worship
- But the default mode of the (fallen) human heart is religion
- Christianity is different both in its message and its impact

### 1. **A Different Message – Christianity is Good News**

- Rom 1:16-17 – 4 contrasts between being religious and being a Christian

#### a) **Christianity is good news not good advice**

- “I am not ashamed of the gospel” - ‘gospel’ means ‘good news’
- Good news is something that has been done for you
- Religion is good advice – something to be done by you
- The Good news is about the Son of God (v2), becoming a man (v3), to save men (v16), by dying and rising (v4) in their place.

#### b) **Christianity is a gift not a demand**

- “in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed”
- Religion is about demands – do this and you’ll be ok
- Good news - God provides the righteousness we need to be accepted
- At the cross Jesus takes our sins and holds out his righteousness
- A Christian repents both of their sin *and* their righteousness

#### c) **Christianity is about trust not effort**

- “by faith from first to last... the righteous shall live by faith”
- Religion is about your efforts – morality, church going, good deeds
- Christianity is about trusting Christ’s effort on your behalf
- Trust in our effort makes us a prisoners to circumstances and feelings

#### d) **Christianity is inside-out, not outside-in**

- Religion is concerned about right behaviour – change and be accepted
- The Gospel is the “power of God for salvation” – be accepted, and God will change you (from the inside out)
- Christianity allows you to be honest, not maintain a façade

### 2. **A Different Impact – Christianity is powerful Good News**

#### a) **It brings real change for all types of people**

- It changes the deeply religious (v1) – “Paul”
- It changes the sophisticated city dwellers (v7) – “to all in Rome”

#### b) **It breeds humility not pride**

- A hunger to serve - “Paul, a servant” v1
- A hunger to learn from other Christians - v11-12

#### c) **It fires a desire to tell others not uncertainty**

- “I am bound... I am so eager... I am not ashamed”
- Good news gives us something to tell – the outcome is not in doubt



# new life fellowship

S E R V I N G J E S U S C H R I S T T H E K I N G

www.newlifefellowship.ie - part of the reformed presbyterian church of ireland

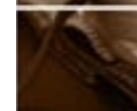
Sunday 5th April 09

### Notices

Sun	Evening service at Milford	8pm
Tues	Prayer time @ _____	8pm
May		
Sat 9th	Ladies Breakfast with Edna... Faughan R.P. Church Hall. Ladies - plan to come along and bring a friend! Enjoy a healthy breakfast and an interesting and challenging talk... What makes a HOME? (Including a muffin-making demonstration!)	9.30am - 11.30am

Camp Application forms available

## Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, or to refresh your memory, and to find answers to your questions about Jesus, the Bible or Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

Sunday 12th - Romans 1:18-32

Opening Psalm: 98

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie

Oversight elders: William Lynch 048 7139 8002 Robert Tait 9101668 Colin Tait 9147352