



ROMANS

Being a Christian instead
of being Religious

4. The Failure of Morality Romans 2:1-16

- Paul addresses those who feel superior because of their high morals

1. **Morality fails**

a) **Because it breeds pride**

- v1,3 – causes us to pass judgment on others
- Bolstering our sense of righteousness by pointing out others' flaws
- But God doesn't grade us relative to others

b) **Because it breeds hypocrisy**

- v1-3 – "You do the same things"
- It's easier to see others sins, and to excuse our own
- It deals with actions not attitudes – putting on a veneer
- Moralism can't afford to look inwards, Christianity has nothing to fear from looking in

c) **Because it misunderstands God's kindness**

- v4 "not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance"
- Sees God's kindness as approval, not increased accountability
- This is a reminder that accounts aren't settled here

d) **Because it overlooks the relentless demands of God's law**

- v6-11 – If we keep the law we will be accepted
- But the duration is longer than we think - "*persist in doing*"
- The standard is higher than we realise – "*seek glory, honour and immortality*". These words call us to a supremely God-centred life
- There is no way we can keep the law in this way

- Easy for Christians to slip back into morality mode - feeling accepted/better because they live morally

2. **Moral people will not escape Judgment**

- 9 times Paul speaks of judgment
- "storing up wrath" – not falling now, but there all the same
- Judgment based on truth not appearance v2,16
- Judgment based on your life not your belonging to a church v6
- Judgment will be worse for those who know more – v12
- God will give no-one a free pass – v11

3. **Jesus is the saviour moral people need**

- Self salvation can't work – God's standards are far higher than we think
- Purpose of the relentlessness of the law is to cause us to despair and look for someone to keep it for us. Jesus is that someone
- A Christian gets their sense of righteousness not from being better, or from looking down on others, but from Jesus.



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 19th April 09

Notices

Sun Evening service at Mark & Judith's 8pm

Wed 22nd Prayer time for Donegal - in Letterkenny (Trinity Hall) 8pm

Sat 25th Presbytery Youth event - Climbing Muckish (not only for young people)
Meeting at southern end at shrine at 1.30
Bring coat, appropriate footwear, and food

Sun 26th Church lunch after morning service
Evening talk - What are you banking on? 8pm
Applying investment principles to our spiritual lives

Camp Application forms available - Remember the fellowship pays half of the cost
Boys' Discovery Camp - 10-12yrs - 25th July-1st Aug - (Armagh)
Girls' Discovery Camp - 10-12yrs - 25th July-1st Aug - (Coleraine)
Boys' Adventure Camp - 13-15yrs - 25th July-1st Aug - (Larne)
Girls' Adventure Camp - 13-15yrs - 18th-25th July - (Armagh)
Senior Camp - 16+yrs - 4th-11th July - (Armagh)

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 26th - Romans 2:17-29

Opening Psalm: 101:1-4

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