



ROMANS

Being a Christian instead
of being Religious

5. Religion fails to provide acceptance with God

Romans 2:17-3:8

- Paul exposes the failure to religion to provide adequate righteousness
- Jews deeply proud of their inherited cultural religion

1. **Christianity isn't about what you know - v17-24**

- v17-20 – 9 privileges the Jews had. v21-22 – 4 questions exposing sin

a) **It's not what you know, it's what you do with what you know v21-22**

- Knowledge is useless if it doesn't make a difference
- Is what we know about God and sin changing how we live?

b) **It's not what you know, it's who you know v23-24**

- Their lives dishonour God, and they don't seem to care
- Christianity is about a personal relationship with God at his great cost. That makes you want to honour him
- No desire to honour – no personal relationship at great cost

Applications

- Christians must aim to live up to what they claim to be
- Those who persistently & unrepentantly dishonour Christ will be subject to discipline because Christ's honour matters more than anything else
- Parents: show your kids that Christianity isn't only rules, but relationship

2. **Christianity isn't about external signs of belonging v25-29**

- Circumcision – Given by God (Gen 17:9-13) as a mark of belonging to God's people. Deep religious, historical, social significance
- Because of it the Jews thought they were OK with God, but Paul says:
 - Not the sign that saves, but the inner reality – v25-27
 - Signs always point to an inner reality – v28,29
 - The reality is something God works by his Holy Spirit – v29
 - Relationship to God is not about your culture but about your heart – v29

Applications

a) **To our sacraments – Baptism, Lord's Supper**

- They don't save. The inner reality must be present. Only God does that
- Baptism & Lord's Supper are only for those who have relationship with God through Jesus. Not rights, but privileges

b) **To our culture**

- Your inherited culture doesn't save you – Protestant or Catholic
- Christianity isn't about cultural issues (politics, music, sport) but about a heart relationship with God based on what Jesus has done.

3. **Invest your Privileges – v1-8**

- Godly upbringing is good but you have to use the information, turn the privilege of truth into trust in Jesus, otherwise you heap up judgment.



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 26th April 09

Notices

Sun 26th Evangelistic meeting - Day Centre, Letterkenny 8pm
What are you banking on? Applying investment principles to our spiritual lives

Tues Bible study @ May - Pick up study sheet on Romans 8pm

Sat 2nd Evangelism Conference @ Cullybackey 10.30am
Subject: Reaching out to our neighbours
Speakers: John Woodside & Billy Patterson

Wed 6th Presbytery meets at Faughan RP Church 7.30pm

Sat 9th Ladies Breakfast with Edna... 9.30am - 11.30am
Faughan R.P. Church Hall
Enjoy a healthy breakfast and an interesting and challenging talk...
What makes a HOME? (Including a muffin-making demonstration!)

Afternoon Milford Congregational outing: A visit to the OM Mission ship Logos Hope in Belfast

Sun 10th Evening Service in Milford

Camp Application forms available - Remember the church 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)

Sunday 3rd - Romans 3:9-20

Opening Psalm: 101:5-8

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

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