

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 01 Mar 2020.....	Romans 01a.....	Compelled
2) 08 Mar.....	Romans 01b.....	Guilty
3) 15 Mar.....	Romans 02.....	Insufficient
4) 22 Mar.....	Romans 03-04.....	Justified
5) 29 Mar.....	Romans 05.....	At Peace
6) 05 April.....	Romans 06-07.....	Free
7) 12 April.....	Luke 24:1-12 [EASTER].....	Raised
8) 19 April.....	Romans 08-09.....	Secured
9) 26 April.....	Romans 10.....	Saved
10) 03 May.....	Romans 11.....	Mercy
11) 10 May.....	Romans 12.....	Sacrifices
12) 17 May.....	Romans 13.....	Citizens
13) 24 May.....	Romans 14.....	Accepting
14) 31 May.....	Romans 15-16.....	Reach

INTRODUCTION

- God's judgment is not trivial – even upon His own children; God's goodness leads people to repentance; Gentiles are included in the grace of God; and to be a true Jew is an inward process
- To adequately absorb these teachings takes much devoted time and study – but it is worth the effort
- Not to study these teachings is akin not to apply yourself in learning algebra. Yes, you can meander through life just knowing how to add, subtract, divide, and multiply, but life becomes more interesting and more fulfilling when you can follow a map, gauge your time and distance. Imagine what life would be like when you learn calculus!
- In other words, Paul is moving us from the basics of our faith to the next level. We should look forward to reaching higher.

Passage	Comments
Romans 2:1-3	God's Goodness Brings Repentance • vv1-3. Hypocrisy reaps God's judgment.....WHY?
2:4-10	Do not Judge – Consider the following: 1. Mat 7:1 Do not judge so you will not be judged 2. 1Cor 6:3 We will one day judge angels, so learn to judge here 3. 1Cor 11:13 Judge for yourselves if something is right or not 4. Luke 12:57 Jesus said, "And why do you not even on your own initiative judge what is right?" 5. John 7:24 Jesus said, "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment." Why Strive to be a Faithful Christian? • v4. How do we "despise" (KJV) or "presume" (ESV) or "think lightly" (NASB) or "show contempt" (NIV) for God's goodness toward us? • Are we cavalier about our faithfulness to Him, His word, His church? • Do we give appropriate devotion to God in time, money, effort? Or just give Him the bare minimum? • Did God give us His bare minimum? • v10. Motivational Promise – Do good and be blessed • Are the blessings in this life; in the next life, or both? • If our blessings are only received in the next life, is Christianity still worth living and dying for?..... YEP
2:11	For there is no Partiality (or Favoritism) with God • BUT WAIT – God deals with the Jews first, then the Gentiles (vv9-10). Isn't that Partiality? No, it's Priority! • Here's a tough one: Do all babies go to Heaven? • If so, is God showing partiality to someone because of their age or mental capacity? • It makes the brain hurt to think about. Deut 29:29
2:12-16	God's Moral Code is Global • Again, no one has an excuse for not knowing God's pervasive moral code. Recall that He puts "eternity into the hearts of men" Ecc 3:1

Passage	Comments
2:17-24	Hypocrisy by One Stains All of Us • v24. 'The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you' – OUCH! • Paul is quoting Isaiah 52:5 or Ezek 36:20 where the Jews of old forsook their God before the Gentiles • Paul wasn't lambasting the Roman Christians for bad behavior, because in 1:8 he thanked God for their wonderful testimony throughout the empire • Paul was stating the obvious of how bad hypocrisy hurts the church back then and TODAY • A horrible example is the divorce rate within the church, which exceeds that of the unchurched. - How can we be a light to the world and show them what a godly marriage should look like when we are cavalier about marriages today, and... - How can the church condemn same-sex unions when it condones adultery within our own ranks?
2:25-29	Religion.....% have been divorced Jews..... 30% Born-again Christians 27% Other Christians 24% Atheists, Agnostics..... 21% Src: https://www.religioustolerance.org/chr_dira.htm I'm A Jew – You're A Jew • To be a true Jew is a work of the heart, not the flesh • This concept will be elaborated on throughout Romans • Abraham's righteousness (and ours) was received before the Law (Chap 4), and Gentiles are spiritually grafted in (Chap 11) • Also recall what Paul told the Corinthians, "What matters in life is not if you are circumcised, but keeping the [moral] commandments of God?"..... 1Cor 7:19

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- God wants our faith to grow beyond the basics. Are we striving to grow? Are we frequently in God's word or casually? Are we being Sacrificial Stewards or Cavalier Christians?
- For those who seek "grace upon grace" (**John 1:16**) and "glory to glory" (**2Cor 3:18**), you can expect to be blessed "far more abundantly beyond all that you can ask or think" (**Eph 3:20**)

NEXT WEEK: Romans 3-4. Grace + Faith delivers a guarantee from God for eternal life to those who exercise their God-given faith

