

**Romans 2:1-3:20**  
**“We are all Guilty Before God”**  
5/02/12

**Introduction**

- The Content of Romans is not hard to understand
  - As long as you remember it is helpful to compare the content of Romans to a great theological city

**The Book of Romans – The Great Theological City**

**#1 – The Courthouse – Romans 1-5**

- Paul introduces the concept of righteousness by faith, but in order to show us our great need of salvation he spend the first five chapters showing are we are all guilty before God

**#2 – The Power Plant – Romans 6-8**

- Chapters 6-8 help us understand that is power to live out this Christian life God is calling us to – Pastor Rob is doing an in-depth series from these three chapters on our weekend services, but we will cover them as well, just at a much more rapid pace

**#3 – The Synagogue – Romans 9-11**

- in chapters 9-11 Paul shares with us how Israel fits into God plan now that there is this new thing called the church and answers the questions, has the church replaced Israel, where do they fit into God’s plan and how does God’s sovereignty fit with man’s free will – great stuff in this section

**#4 – The Church – Romans 12-16**

- in Paul’s final section of this book we will study how the church is practically suppose to operate in light of the all the amazing truths about God is this book – Paul ends all of his letters very practically Romans is no exception

**Now last week as we entered the courtroom we saw that those that are far from God, the heathen guilty in His sight**

- even though they didn’t have the Bible preached to them
  - even though they weren’t brought up religious, they still had the witness of nature, the witness of their inward conscience
  - and therefore they were guilty before God
- this week the court case continues here in chapter 2 as we see that it is not just those that are far from God that are guilty, but also those who are religious
  - Paul moves on from the guilt of the heathen to the guilt of the Jew or the religious person

**You see up to this point no doubt many of the Jews listening to what Paul was saying , reading along with this letter, would agree whole heartedly – you tell those heathens Paul, you tell those Gentiles**

- they have no excuse – they are guilty before God
  - Many would feel this way because it was standard Jewish teaching that Gentiles only existed to fuel the fires of Hell
  - And the Jewish people, many taught, hey, just because you are Jewish you are good, you are in the Kingdom
- So the Jewish, religious people reading this book so far would be saying “go for Paul, stick it to them, the heathen is guilty and in need of a savior, if that is even possible”

**But Paul here in chapter 2 turns his attention to the religious Jew – the one who had the law, who knew what God’s Word said, who were called God’s chosen people – who had the rite circumcision to identify them with God , these that, had every advantage in every way**

**Yet Paul here is going to make the point – they still needed a savior**

- In the Courthouse of God – whether you are far from God and have had no religious training, or if you are very, very, very religious person – in either case you need the righteous Christ provides
  - Now you and I might say – of course, but to the Jewish audience, they would be thinking - How could that be??
  - To them this would have been earth shattering, religious Jews need a savior
- Well Paul begins to build his case
  - For you note takers Paul begins with 2 reasons they Religious Jews were guilty before God

### **Why were the Jews Guilty? – Romans 2:1-16**

#### **#1 - Religious people don't fool Him – Romans 2:1-4**

- The religious Jews in Paul's day had a bad habit of pointing fingers, accusing, even condemning the Gentiles, the heathen
  - You – you are such breakers of the law, you are so far from God – look at your lifestyle
- But God through the Apostle Paul says I see through all of that
  - There is a tendency when our walks are not as they should be, that the inconsistencies we see in our own hearts, stick out in others

You remember King David after he fell with Bathsheba, the prophet Nathan comes to David and says, David, you won't believe this, a man in your Kingdom had flocks and flocks of lambs and next door to him was a man that had one little precious lamb. This lamb was all this man had, it ate at the table with him, it slept in his bed, he loved that little lamb. When the rich man who had flock had a visitor, he took the little lamb from his neighbor and killed it instead of his own – what should be done to this man?

#### **The Bible record in II Samuel chapter 12 that David flies into a rage, what, what did that guy do – he must die, lets kill em**

- David??? – the law only requires that the rich man restore seven fold
  - He owes the poor man 7 lambs David, not his life
  - But David loses his mind – where the man, I'll kill em
- But then, oh the prophet Nathan said, "David, you are the man!!"
  - Busted

#### **That is what David had done**

- he had multiple wives, basically could do whatever he wanted
  - and yet he took Uriah one and only precious wife
  - David was guilty

#### **But our sin always looks worse on others**

- that is what God is hinting at
  - you Jews are pointing fingers, accusing the Gentiles, condemning their sin
  - but it is all a big indication – you are guilty of some similar things

#### **You see precious church the normal reaction to a person who is sin as a believer, as one who has the heart of God, you should weep, you should mourn**

- oh Lord help them to open their eyes, help them to overcome
  - Paul says in Galatians 6 says – you who are spiritual – if your brother is caught up in sin, restore such a man with an attitude of brokenness and humility that it could be you
  - That is how spiritual people respond to someone in sin

#### **The religious person, the person who is really not walking with God, but putting on a show, that person condemns, that person points the finger**

- and Paul is saying, that makes it even worse for you
  - because you are saying this is wrong
  - meaning – you know its wrong

- and yet you are participating in the same or very similar things
- you are guilty you religious hypocrite

I remember as a little kid, when it would be prayer time, I would close my eyes, but keep them open just a little bit, to look at other kids when they prayed. One time I saw this kid just looking around. After prayer, because I was a little snitch, I told the teacher, “He was looking around.” She of course asked me, “How did you know unless you were looking around” – busted!

### **But God sees through our religious facades**

- and the declaration is guilty

### **Why were the Jews Guilty? – Romans 2:1-16**

#### **#1 - Religious people don't fool Him – Romans 2:1-4**

#### **#2 - God is an impartial judge– Romans 2:5-16**

- The standard teaching of the day was that the Jews were highly favored – of course God loved them more than any other people group on earth at that time, they were His chosen people

- But Paul is saying to them, you are God's chosen people, but you still have to follow Him, because God is not going to be partial just because you are Jews

### **God is not swayed by favoritism, and it is funny how we think he is, that He understands us and our sin, but rightfully judges everyone else**

- and though we would love that – God is not an unfair judge
  - and I'm glad He is not
  - have you ever had an unfair judge

I remember at 17 we were living in Fresno CA and it was storming outside, but I had to go to golf practice. So I went to the course in my rain gear, work on some things for a while, not one else was there, so I headed home. Thee only intersection heading to my house was flooded, but I figured it wasn't that deep, just go ahead and power through it, well my car stalled, as the waters rose, I had to crawl out through the moon roof of the car, a school bus came by and little kids were laughing at me, not a good day. But then there were many repairs that needed to be done to the car, most of its computer circuitry needed to be replaced – so we took the car in most things worked, but some of the wiring was still misfiring, so we had a friend look at the car and he said, these wires weren't replaced like they charged you for, they were patched up, but these are not new. Well my step father went through the roof, not the moon roof, but you know, so he sued the mechanic who had done the work on our car. And when the day of our small claims court case came, I was there beside my step dad, we had our friend mechanic there to testify, and in walked the judge who looked at the guy who had fixed our car and said, “Hey Jim how are you doing, still playing a lot of golf. We need to get out there together more, then looked at us with a glare. I'm like only in the Fresno Court system. We are in trouble. And we were, we lost the case

- and typical teenager I was embarrassed we were even there, even at 17 I could realize the great injustice that was – hey if you guys are friends, then you can't try this case – you are not impartial
  - I'm glad that God is impartial, that He doesn't treat one guy one way and someone else totally different

### **But even though Paul declares this to be so**

- that just because they were Jews and had the law, if they were not keeping the Law
  - they were still guilty

### **Now this is not teaching works salvation, that if I do what my hearts tells me I will be saved**

- again Paul is building the case we are all guilty before God, Jew and Gentile alike

### **But the Jews would not have been easily convinced**

- And why were they convinced?

- Look at the next section – [Romans 2:17-29](#)

**Paul is going through what would have been their argument against the fact that God is going to treat unbelieving Jews, unbelieving religious people the same as the heathen**

- and we need to pay special attention to their progression of argument for a reason we will bring up in just a minute

**Why was it exactly the Jew felt secure?**

**#1 – They had the Law**

- The Jews had much more than the revelation of nature, and the witness inside them as we looked at the heaven last week
  - They had the written Word God
  - So of course they were Holy

**But Paul makes the point – it is not having a copy of the Law that makes you righteous**

- Its not the hearers – Listening to the law didn't save you
  - It was the keeping of the Law
- It was not in the possession of the law, but in the practice of the law
  - You know like I have said before, it is not enough to have a gym membership – I wish it was – no – you have to go, you have to go consistently – not the two weeks on, six weeks off like I do
- A precious brother in the church brought this in for Rob and I
  - Look it says right on the box, train anywhere
  - It says, fast and effective – you would think that would be right up our ally, but so far it hasn't helped us – why – its still in the box

**You have got to take it out**

- The Jews thought they were righteous because they had the law
  - Secondly

**Why was it exactly the Jew felt secure?**

**#1 – They had the Law**

**#2 – They knew what to tell people**

- Because they had the law, they could exhort people to follow the Law
  - They knew the advice to give, they knew what to stay away from, they knew what to be devoted to
  - So they must be Holy
- But again Paul makes the point – it is not knowing what it right, it is doing what is right that makes a man righteous
  - And again – although they would tell people, “Do not commit adultery, do not worship idols, it was exactly what they were doing”
  - That's not righteousness – it is guiltiness
- In fact its worse than the heathen because they knew better
  - If you are telling someone not to do something, you have no excuse – you know it is wrong
  - But they thought – no we are righteous, because we have the law, we know how to tell people how to live

**Why was it exactly the Jew felt secure?**

**#1 – They had the Law**

**#2 – They knew what to tell people**

**#3 – They were called God's people**

- they were Jewish – they were children of Abraham, God chosen people
  - of course we are righteous before God, why – we Jews –
  - **The name “Jew” means “praised of God”**

## **In fact orthodox Jews to this day living in foreign countries attach the name “Jew” to their own**

- in other words if someone asked me my mine, I would say if I were an orthodox Jew in certain countries
  - Jason Duff Jew
  - Why – because again what I am really saying is my Jason Duff who is praised of God – sounds like I’m in when you say it that way

## **But Paul brings up – verse 28 – a Jew isn’t one who simply has an outward title**

- A Jew is one is set apart to God is His heart
  - Its not a name thing, its not a cultural thing – it’s a heart issue

John the Baptist in Matthew Chapter 3 as the Lord was using him to turn many hearts back to God, the Pharisees came out to see what was happening – and they were pulling this same attitude on John – “Why would we be baptized, we are Jews, we are children of Abraham – John says to them... “Where are the fruits of repentance in your life, if you think you are righteous because you are descendants of Abraham, you are mistaken, God can raise up descendants of Abraham from these stones”

- What an insult – you are no better than these rocks you block heads
  - John was telling them, its not your lineage or your name that saves you
  - Same thing Paul is saying
- But the Jews insisted – we are righteous, why, we have the law, we know what to tell people, we are Jews, Abraham’s kids and one more, the biggy...

## **Why was it exactly that the Jew felt secure?**

**#1 – They had the Law**

**#2 – They knew what to tell people**

**#3 – They were called God’s people**

**#4 – They were circumcised**

## **Not going to be graphic tonight – there are other parts of scripture where we will have to get into the details of this, but not tonight**

- It is sufficient to understand that circumcision was an outward sign of an inward reality – the flesh was cut away and they were the Lords, set apart

## **And the Jews would say – we are righteous because we have partaken of the ordinance of circumcision**

- But once again Paul makes the point, verse 25 – 29 – the outward sign is only valid if it is accompanied by the inward reality
  - There was no reality – and so they were guilty

## **They had the law, they knew what to tell people, they were called Jews, they had partaken of the ordinance of circumcision**

- but they did not keep the law, they did not follow their own advice, they did not live out the meaning of what it was to be a Jew and they did not fully live out the reality of what their circumcision stood for
  - and so just like the heathen, they are not righteous, – they were guilty before God

## **But before we move, there is something about this section that you and I need to consider**

- you see we too can say, the heathen, yeah, guilty before God
  - the Jew – they don’t even believe in the Messiah, guilty before God – they need a savior to get to heaven
- But me – I’m a Christian, in fact I’m a Calvary Chapel Christian, which is even better, closer to God, not one of those fully Duffy Christians
  - But friends, lest we deceive ourselves we need to look closely at these things
  - Why – because we can have the same excuses the Jews had in our own religiosity

## **We might feel secure because...**



## #1 – We have the Bible

- I have it right here, it is bound in leather and even has my name on it
  - I teach little kids Sunday School, of course I'm righteous
- Really, precious one, you are righteous because you have a Bible and teach it–
  - if you really have the Bible, if you really read the Bible – then you should know –
  - you don't keep what it says –
- if you think you do, you need to read it again – because I have – And I know Pastor Jason doesn't keep the law, not to T, and that the standard of perfection God is looking for
  - I am guilty, you are guilty
  - But we think...

## We might feel secure because...

### #1 – We have the Bible

### #2 – We know what to tell people

- People come to me for advice – and I know what to tell them, of course I'm righteous
  - Really – people come to me all the time – and how many times I have poured out my heart, and as I do the Spirit of God is saying are you listening to what you are saying, because that's good, you need to do that
  - I can't tell you how even doing wedding, sometimes has been such a blessing for my marriage, as I telling this guy to serve His wife, wash her with the Word, and the Spirit is saying, that is really good stuff and you, are you hearing this too
- Oh I know – I fall so short – I hope you realize you do too

## We might feel secure because...

### #1 – We have the Bible

### #2 – We know what to tell people

### #3 – I am a Christian

- I have a Bible, I know what it says, and more than that, I am a Christian
  - You might say I have been one for 30 years, and more than that, my parents were Christians, and I where I had been pastoring for the past seven years I we be told all the time – what are you witnessing to me for I am American, Texas Christian, nothing says Righteous, like a Christian Texas American
- Really – Bible students you and I both know that..

## “Christian” means “little Christs”

- it was a title first given to the believers in Antioch – you know why – they were just like Jesus
  - So how you are doing with that – Christian
- My wife has this book, what would Jesus eat and I have read the intro and you what I know already – I don't even eat like Jesus – let alone act like Jesus, not all the time and if that the standard...

## We might feel secure because...

### #1 – We have the Bible

### #2 – We know what to tell people

### #3 – I am a Christian

### #4 – I am baptized

- full emersion.. – I'm righteous
  - really – you and I both know, Baptism is an outward act of an inward reality, just like circumcision would have been for the Jews
- its states that I have let the old life be death and buried and now I am alive to Christ
  - is that your reality????

**Here is my point – I love God, I do have a Bible, I do know what it says, I do exhort people to follow it, and I try to myself, I am a Christian in name and position, and yes I have been baptized, in fact in the Jordan river, top that**

- but I know that I am saved for one reason and one reason alone and it is for none of those things
  - I am saved because of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross for me, and my receiving of His forgiveness
- I know that My righteousness is as filthy rages before Him, I know the only reason I will be in heaven is because His righteous had been transferred to me
  - Without that I am guilty before God as a religious Christian just like the religious Jews were guilty before God

**And again this is huge on my heart because if we don't get this, if we don't see that no matter how many Bible you own, no matter how many times you have read it or how long you have been a Christian or how many ministries you are involved in**

- that apart from His gracious salvation of you, you would be lost
  - if you don't get that, then like the Religious, you are going to look down at everyone else around you
  - the Jews would turn up their nose at unbelievers – tell them they were fuel for the fires of hell – that is seeker friendly message
- And yet if we are not careful – we can start to turn our noses up at those that are not as spiritual as us and I personally think that is the opposite of the heart of God

I love to be around new believers – you know those who say things like, I found that most wonderful verse in the Bible – John 3:16 – God loves the world – it becomes so familiar to so many of us, God keep us from that

**Well into chapter 3 for just a minute**

- Paul after sharing with the religious Jew that he or she is also guilty before God and in need of a savior
  - Paul anticipates three objections to his teaching as chapter 3 opens up
  - Lets look at these for just a minute

**Romans 3:1-8 – Objections from the Religious Jew**

**#1 – What advantage is there to being a Jew and being circumcised?**

- **The answer – Much in every way!**
  - You have a huge advantage to know God
  - Same is true for you Christians who were brought up – so because I have been raised in the church since I was 2 years old, there is no advance – of course there is dummy, you know the Word, its in your heart
  - But – to whom much is given much is required and again you are not saved because of that advantage, you should be blessed because of that advantage

**#2 – Does our unbelief make God then unfaithful?**

- **The answer – Certainly not**
  - Or as I like to translate – no dummy, just because you are not smart to respond to every advantage there is to walk with God – doesn't make God unfaithful because you are thick
  - And the third one, because there is always a wise guy in the audience
  - There is always a tall Italian wise guy who says, the wind was act your back and so that is why you hit a 338 year drive – if you have no idea you need to follow along in our weekend services

➤ But for the wise guy...

**#3 – If my unrighteous glorifies God and His forgiveness, why would God judge me?**

- **The answer – God is glorified no matter what – you are judged because you are sinner, no matter if God gets glory or not**

- you God is going to get glory, just because you are part of the at process, doesn't excuse your behavior

**Paul sums up his argument by saying – Romans 3:9-20 – He is using rabbinical teaching technique called a “charaz” – stringing together of various OT passages in order to prove a point**

- Paul begins to show his knowledge of the Old Testament as he starts pulling verses from psalms, from Ecclesiastes, from the prophet Isaiah
  - The fact we are all guilty before God
  - Heathen and religious person alike is not just some New Testament idea
- It is has been the idea ever since the Word of God was first penned

**Again, personally I don't believe as these verse are often used that therefore I am not responsible to respond to God**

- as we learned last week, even if you grew up in jungle
  - God has preaching at you through nature, through the witness of your own heart and conscience that you need a savior, you are not okay
  - They are without excuse – Romans 1 says, they need to respond to the light they do have
- But even more so as we look at the verses tonight – that most of us have grown, we have heard the stories about Christ, we know the Word, we go to church
  - You are also without excuse
  - You have every advantage to be a believer

**But the owning a Bible, going to church, giving money, that doesn't save you – it feeds me kids, so please don't stop – but it doesn't save you**

- No flesh is justified in His sight
  - As Jesus says in Matthew 5 – you want to be righteous – no problem – just be perfect like my father in heaven is perfect
  - But I can't!!! – you know you can't, again because the witness is within you
- You can't
  - We have all been brought to the courthouse and shown every one of us in the this room is desperately lost without Christ – you need a savior
  - Not just a little bit, not just kind of – desperately

**Ivan Turgenev – “I don't know what the heart of a bad man is like, but I do know what the heart of a good man is like and it is terrible” – we need Jesus**

**And next Wednesday Night we are going to slow down a little bit, we are just going to cover the rest of chapter 3, as Paul, now that we know – I need a savior – He is going to introduce to us this Righteousness that comes from God – Barnhouse called them – “the most important in the Bible”**

- so buckle – up – prepare yourself
  - the beating is over for now
  - next week – the good news
- And my prayer, from tonight until then, is every one of us, new or walking with God for 30 years
  - We like the new Christian who says, I found this cool verse – John 3:16 – God loves the world
  - I am praying that all of us next week will re fall in love with God because of the great salvation He has produced in our lives