

## The Book of Romans - Part 12

It is a good life living for the Lord. Thank you for joining me once again for "It's a Good Life." Today, we're going to continue our study in the book of Romans, and we're going to pick up with chapter 2, verses 19 and 20.

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Well, today we pick up our study in the book of Romans, chapter 2, verses 19 and 20. These verses say this: *<sup>19</sup>And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, <sup>20</sup>An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law.*

Paul is speaking to the Jewish people here. He's saying, "You've become comfortable." Notice the word "confident" in verse 19. "Confident" means convinced or persuaded. These Jewish people were convinced that their perspective was correct. If their hearts had been right with the Lord, then they would have been faithful witnesses to the Lord.

Now, Paul is setting them up here for the big blow. He will bring them very low at this point. Notice that these two verses, 19 and 20, paint a picture of the Jew as feeling far superior to others, confident, the verse says. And notice the words that Paul has been using to describe these people: resting comfortably, boasting, confident, and so

forth. Paul needs to humble these people. He needs to disturb their rest and bring them very low. It's very difficult to break through religious pride. Religious people are trusting in themselves and not Christ. They're far too comfortable.

Notice in verse 20 the word "form." This refers to what is outward and external. If you look at II Timothy 3:5, it says, *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

Outwardly religious does not make a person right with God. Romans 2:21-22 says this: *<sup>21</sup>Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? <sup>22</sup>Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege?*

Notice first of all the word "taught," being taught. Paul is now ready to knock the props right out from under these religious Jews. First of all, these people had God's law and they heard God's law, but they did not do God's law, according to verse 13, and thus, they will be judged by God's law, verse 12. Instead of being law keepers, they were law breakers.

Before we teach others, we need to first teach ourselves. I refer you back to verse 21. And this is especially true when teaching God's Word. Make sure the message first hits home to your heart before you teach it to anyone else. And these Jews failed to practice what they preached. "Your actions speak so loud that I can't hear your words." And what flowed from their life contradicted what flowed from their lips. They taught the commandments, but they did not keep the commandments.

Notice next that Jesus told His disciples to follow the teachings of the scribes and Pharisees, but not their works. You can look in Matthew 23:1-3 where it says: *<sup>1</sup>Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup>Saying, **The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: <sup>3</sup>All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.***

What Jesus is saying here is they know the law. They know what is right. They know to do what is right, but they're not doing it. You need to listen to what they say, because they know the law. They know the Scriptures. And you need to listen to the Scriptures, but don't look to them. And when I see these verses, I think that it's teaching us also today that we're not to follow man. We're to follow God. We're not to set our sites on a man or a woman. You know, we set people up on pedestals, as human beings, but once again, people will let us down. People will hurt us. So, therefore, I'm not telling you not to have friends. What I'm telling you is this. You need to trust in the Lord. You need to let God lead you. You need to have godly friends around you, and that means people who are doing what God would have them to do. They're in the Scriptures. Are they doing the Scriptures? Are they doing what God wants them to do in their lives? Don't put your faith and trust in any human being. Put your faith and trust in the Lord.

Romans 2:23 says this: *Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?* Notice the witnesses here. First, instead of being excellent witnesses for the Lord, they were actually terrible witnesses. And then we see that the Jews dishonored God by breaking God's holy law. And this is explained further in verse 24. It says there, *For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through*

*you, as it is written.* They were terrible witnesses for the Lord.

"It is written," Paul says. It's written, the name of God. The name of God stands for God's person and for His reputation. By the way the Jews lived, they dishonored God's name. Don't represent yourself as a saved person and live like the devil. Don't dishonor God that way. You need to get things right with God. And if you've never been saved, you need to ask Jesus to come into your heart, but don't be a hypocrite. Don't let people think that what you are doing is what a child of God is supposed to do if you're doing wrong. Be a child of God. Be a Christian. Be what God wants you to be. First, you have to ask Jesus into your heart and then, the Bible tells us, we grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Get into His Word. Study His Word and let God lead you and mold your life as a saved person.

But notice what else is written here. In this verse just as it was written, Paul says. Paul, I believe, was thinking of, first of all, Isaiah 52:5. It says, *Now therefore, what have I here, saith the LORD, that my people is taken away for nought? they that rule over them make them to howl, saith the LORD; and my name continually every day is blasphemed.*

It's sad that, when things get rough for many Christians, they turn their back on God, but God never turns His back on the Christian, on the person who is saved. Many times we as human beings as Christians, we will turn away from God. Not that we've lost our salvation, but we start blaming God. Even as a Christian, we sometimes blame God for things that come into our lives that we don't understand, but God is in control. God knows what's going on. Do not turn on God. He's never turned on you. He wants to lead and guide you.

In Romans 2:25, it says this: *For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.* Notice the word “profiteth,” circumcision. The Jews rested comfortably in the fact that they were circumcised. Secondly, we see the Jews highly valued circumcision as stated in the Old Testament rabbinical writings. It says there that no circumcised man will be lost. Well, that’s a lie. That’s not true; is it? Just because a person has something done to them does not make them fit for Heaven.

And number three, remember, in reality circumcision was merely an outward ritual. It was meant to be an outward sign or seal of an inward reality. And although we have not studied Romans chapter 4 yet, we need to read verse 11 here. Romans 4:11 says, *And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also.*

In the days of Paul, there was a saying that Abraham stood at the gates of Hades to make sure that no circumcised man was ever cast into Hell. The outward ritual profits a person only if it is accompanied by the inner reality, according to the Word of God. The outward rite is worthless, of no benefit or advantage apart from the inward reality and reality. Apart from this, it is just ritual with no reality, a symbol with no substance. It’s like baptism. It’s an outward sign of an inward possession. We possess Jesus Christ and He possesses us because we’ve trusted Him as our Savior.

Romans 2:26-27 says this: *26Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? 27And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law,*

*judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?*

Notice the word “nature,” uncircumcision first of all. This refers to Gentiles, heathens in the Jews’ sight. Those who do not have the outward ritual of circumcision. And we see that if the Gentile has the inward reality of circumcision, then he has the one thing that really counts, and that is Jesus Christ as Savior.

Notice Romans 2:28-29: *28For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*

We’re going to pick up here next time with verses 28-29. Study this chapter if you would. Read the remaining verses of this chapter, and then we’ll start in these verses that I’ve mentioned next time in Romans chapter 2.

In the meantime, look at our Website, [www.LRWM.org](http://www.LRWM.org). Or you can write to me, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. I’ll be glad to send you free of charge a written transcript of this program. My heart’s desire for you is that you know Jesus as your Savior. Ask Him into your heart today if you haven’t done so.

And if you have asked Him into your heart, live for Him. Let Him lead and guide you. Be a witness for Him and lead others to our Lord and Savior.

May the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.