



ROMANS

Strong faith for life



- We desperately need a **strong faith** in Jesus.

Paul wants us to know:

- The sin problem is **everyone's problem**.

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Romans 3:23 (NLT)

- God continues to reveal himself to **everyone**.

They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. Romans 1:29-31 (NIV)

"Well," you may be saying, "what terrible people you have been talking about!" But wait a minute! You are just as bad. When you say they are wicked and should be punished, you are talking about yourselves, for you do these very same things. Romans 2:1 (TLB)

'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! 12 I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.' Luke 18:11-12 (NLT)

"But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, 'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.' Luke 18:13 (NLT)

Jesus said... "That man, rather than the first, went home justified before God. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." Luke 18:14

Two points to the story:

- We should only compare ourselves to **God**, not to others.

"You must be holy because I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16 (TLB)

- Our only hope is for God's **mercy**, not a **better life**.

We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags... Isaiah 64:6 (NLT)

Warnings for the church person:

- Don't congratulate yourself for being a **good person**.

But if you think that leaves you on the high ground where you can point your finger at others, think again. Every time you criticize someone, you condemn yourself. It takes one to know one. Judgmental criticism of others is a well-known way of escaping detection in your own crimes and misdemeanors. But God isn't so easily diverted. He sees right through all such smoke screens and holds you to what *you've* done.

3-4 You didn't think, did you, that just by pointing your finger at others you would distract God from seeing all your misdoings and from coming down on you hard? Or did you think that because he's such a nice God, he'd let you off the hook? Romans 2:1-4 (Msg)

- God's patience and mercy should not be mistaken for **approval**.

Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? Romans 2:4 (NLT)

- Remember, good people don't **go to Heaven**.

You are so proud of knowing God's laws, *but you dishonor him by breaking them*. 24 No wonder the Scriptures say that the world speaks evil of God because of you. Romans 2:23-24 (TLB)

He will give each one whatever his deeds deserve. Romans 2:6 (TLB)

- Don't dismiss the **moral code** that God gave you.

But there will be glory and honor and peace from God for all who obey him, whether they are Jews or Gentiles. Romans 2:10 (TLB)

Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. Romans 3:24 (NLT)



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- If you attended this church in Rome, how important would this letter from Paul be to you? Would you read it any differently than you do today? Explain.
- Why do you think its important to Paul to show over and over again that all men are sinful?
- What does it mean that "the sin problem is everyone's problem?"
- Discuss the different ways Paul says God has revealed himself to us? Why has God revealed Himself to us?
- Why should we only compare ourselves to God?
- What happens when we evaluate our lives based on how good life is?
- How do we try to justify ourselves by being a good person?
- How do we mistake God's patience with us as His approval of our lifestyle?
- Why is it tempting for some to believe that good people go to heaven? Who goes to heaven?
- How does our conscience support (or reflect) God's truth?

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Today's Talk..



A Warning to Church People

Sunday, June 2nd, 2024

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