



# ROMANS

Being a Christian instead  
of being Religious

## 4. The Failure of Morality Romans 2:1-16

- Paul addresses those who feel superior because of their high morals

### 1. **Morality fails**

#### a) **Because it breeds pride**

- v1,3 – causes us to pass judgment on others
- Bolstering our sense of righteousness by pointing out others' flaws
- But God doesn't grade us relative to others

#### b) **Because it breeds hypocrisy**

- v1-3 – "You do the same things"
- It's easier to see others sins, and to excuse our own
- It deals with actions not attitudes – putting on a veneer
- Moralism can't afford to look inwards, Christianity has nothing to fear from looking in

#### c) **Because it misunderstands God's kindness**

- v4 "not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance"
- Sees God's kindness as approval, not increased accountability
- This is a reminder that accounts aren't settled here

#### d) **Because it overlooks the relentless demands of God's law**

- v6-11 – If we keep the law we will be accepted
- But the duration is longer than we think - "*persist in doing*"
- The standard is higher than we realise – "*seek glory, honour and immortality*". These words call us to a supremely God-centred life
- There is no way we can keep the law in this way

- Easy for Christians to slip back into morality mode - feeling accepted/better because they live morally

### 2. **Moral people will not escape Judgment**

- 9 times Paul speaks of judgment
- "storing up wrath" – not falling now, but there all the same
- Judgment based on truth not appearance v2,16
- Judgment based on your life not your belonging to a church v6
- Judgment will be worse for those who know more – v12
- God will give no-one a free pass – v11

### 3. **Jesus is the saviour moral people need**

- Self salvation can't work – God's standards are far higher than we think
- Purpose of the relentlessness of the law is to cause us to despair and look for someone to keep it for us. Jesus is that someone
- A Christian gets their sense of righteousness not from being better, or from looking down on others, but from Jesus.

# Milford RPC

www.milfordrpc.org

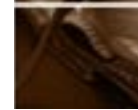
Sabbath 19th April 09

## Notices

- |                      |  |     |
|----------------------|--|-----|
| Sun                  | Evening service at Mark & Judith's   | 8pm |
| Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Prayer time for Donegal - in Letterkenny (Trinity Hall)  | 8pm |
| Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> | Presbytery Youth event - Climbing Muckish (not only for young people)<br>Meeting at southern end (at shrine) at 1.30<br>Bring coat, appropriate footwear, and food |     |
| Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> | Evening talk - What are you banking on?<br>Applying investment principles to our spiritual lives   | 8pm |

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)

## Christianity Explored



A 6-week course designed to let you find out the facts about Jesus, or to refresh your memory, and to find answers to your questions about Jesus, the Bible or Christianity.

- You don't need to know anything about the Bible
- You won't be asked to read, pray or answer questions
- You will be given every opportunity to ask your own questions

If you're interested in finding out more, or having one in your home for friends to come to - speak to Mark

Sabbath 26th - Romans 2:17-29

Opening Psalm: 77:1-5

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