



# ROMANS

Being a Christian instead  
of being Religious

5. Religion fails to provide  
acceptance with God  
Romans 2:17-3:8

- Paul exposes the failure to religion to provide adequate righteousness
- Jews deeply proud of their inherited cultural religion

### 1. **Christianity isn't about what you know - v17-24**

- v17-20 – 9 privileges the Jews had. v21-22 – 4 questions exposing sin

#### a) **It's not what you know, it's what you do with what you know v21-22**

- Knowledge is useless if it doesn't make a difference
- Is what we know about God and sin changing how we live?

#### b) **It's not what you know, it's who you know v23-24**

- Their lives dishonour God, and they don't seem to care
- Christianity is about a personal relationship with God at his great cost. That makes you want to honour him
- No desire to honour – no personal relationship at great cost

#### **Applications**

- Christians must aim to live up to what they claim to be
- Those who persistently & unrepentantly dishonour Christ will be subject to discipline because Christ's honour matters more than anything else
- Parents: show your kids that Christianity isn't only rules, but relationship

### 2. **Christianity isn't about external signs of belonging v25-29**

- Circumcision – Given by God (Gen 17:9-13) as a mark of belonging to God's people. Deep religious, historical, social significance
- Because of it the Jews thought they were OK with God, but Paul says:
  - Not the sign that saves, but the inner reality – v25-27
  - Signs always point to an inner reality – v28,29
  - The reality is something God works by his Holy Spirit – v29
  - Relationship to God is not about your culture but about your heart – v29

#### **Applications**

##### a) **To our sacraments – Baptism, Lord's Supper**

- They don't save. The inner reality must be present. Only God does that
- Baptism & Lord's Supper are only for those who have relationship with God through Jesus. Not rights, but privileges

##### b) **To our culture**

- Your culture doesn't save you – Protestant culture or otherwise
- Those from so-called 'lost' cultures who find Jesus will sit in judgment on many Protestants

### 3. **Invest your Privileges – v1-8**

- Godly upbringing is good but you have to use the information, turn the privilege of truth into trust in Jesus, otherwise you heap up judgment.

# Milford RPC

www.milfordrpc.org

Sabbath 26th April 09

#### Notices

- |                      |  |                  |
|----------------------|--|------------------|
| Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> | Evangelistic meeting - Day Centre Letterkenny<br>What are you banking on? Applying investment principles to our spiritual lives  | 8pm              |
| Wed                  | Bible study @ Church - 10 Commandments Study 6   | 8pm              |
| Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Evangelism Conference @ Cullybackey<br>Subject: Reaching out to our neighbours<br>Speakers: John Woodside & Billy Patterson  | 10.30am          |
| Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Prayer time before morning service<br>No Evening Service in Milford (instead on 10th)  | 11.15am          |
| Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> | Precommunion   | 8pm              |
| Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Presbytery meets at Faughan RP Church  | 7.30pm           |
| Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Ladies Breakfast with Edna...<br>Faughan R.P. Church Hall<br>Enjoy a healthy breakfast and an interesting and challenging talk...<br>What makes a HOME? (Including a muffin-making demonstration!) | 9.30am - 11.30am |
| Afternoon            | Congregational outing: A visit to the OM Mission ship Logos Hope in Belfast<br>Finalised details next week - likely to travel down for lunchtime   |                  |
| Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> | Communion<br>Evening Service in Milford  |                  |

Camp Application forms available - Remember the church pays half of the cost

Sabbath 3rd - Romans 3:9-20

Opening Psalm: 77:6-11

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