

FAITH'S FOUNDATION
Session: Three Hundred and Sixteen:
Romans: "Get It Right"
"Sin: Religion Is Not Enough"

Foundational Observation:

No church nor any part of the body of Christ will ever decline or die because of immorality in Hollywood or corruption in Washington but rather from corruption within.

Foundational Principles:

Religion can become quite a hindrance to a real relationship with God.

Foundational Verses:

Rom 2:1-29 (NIV)

1 **You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.** 2 Now we know that God's judgment against **those** who do such things is based on truth. 3 So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on **them** and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment?

4 **Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?** 5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. 6 God "will give to each person according to what he has done." 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. 9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; 10 but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 11 For God does not show favoritism.

12 **All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law.** 13 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. 14 (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, 15 since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) 16 This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares. 17 Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and brag about your relationship to God; 18 if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; 19 if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— 21 you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? 22 You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? 23 You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? 24 As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."

25 Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. **26 If those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised?** 27 The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.

28 A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. 29 No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.

Understanding “*Religion Is Not Enough*”
(The bold-print questions below are for application)

1. Why do you think there is such a neglect of teaching, preaching, and talking about sin today? _____

2. Look carefully and the bolded and underlined sections of Romans two. Identify and summarize the message of the four witnesses Paul calls to the forefront to confirm that Judaism (or any religion, for that matter) cannot save a person. _____

3. Using your Bible, take time to look back over the list of sins in Rom. 1:29-32. Can you honestly say you are not guilty of at least one of these sins? _____ Therefore, this list leads us to understand what about the universality of sin? _____

4. What does the fact that the Jews could see sin in the life of another imply about themselves? _____
5. What does Paul suggest God's blessings of the Jews resulted in? _____

 Carefully read over verses 6-11. Does this imply salvation is based on works? If not what does it suggest? _____

6. Read verse 13. Does possession of the law or practice of the law coincide with salvation and why? _____

 As you read further, other than in the O.T., where does Paul suggest the law has been written? _____
7. Look closely at Dt. 10:16; Jer. 9:26; and Ez. 44:9. What does circumcision symbolize? _____
 Which is more important the physical symbol or the spiritual reality? Why? _____

