



**Reaching,  
Restoring,  
Raising Up**

1140 Morrison Dr  
Fort Worth, TX 76120-3426

Phone: 817-451-5513  
Email: allan@celebrationnet.com

**L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Romans 2:1-16**

*Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.*

1. Talk about which bothers you most—the heathen (an ungodly person) or a hypocrite. Why? Which category do you fall into?
2. What is “absolute truth”, and how does it differ from “relative” truth? Discuss how it is possible that 53% of people in evangelical churches believe that “truth is relative”.
3. Share experiences where you have fallen prey to a “fatal flaw” of man’s truth (if I look good, then I am good; if circumstances good, my life pleases God; delayed judgment = no judgment)?
4. Discuss what it means that “I can’t be saved by works, but I will be judged by them”. Why is it so important to understand this in daily living?
5. In what sense will the gospel “judge” us, and how can we come out on the right side of this judgment? What difference should this make in our lives this week?
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

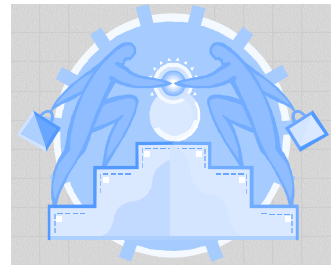
**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find  
Yours Below and Join Us!**

**Adult Bible Fellowships**

**Locations, Times, Descriptions**

**9:00**

**10:45**



**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS  
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -**

Room	9:00 Description	Room	10:45 Description
Rm104	30s-50s—Waller-Crary	Rm 104	Open—Bower-Chappell
Rm 112		Rm 112	Women—Byrum
Rm 201	30s-40s—Sims	Rm 201	How People Grow
Rm 202		Rm 202	“ “ “
Rm 203	Young Singles —Franklin/Reynolds	Rm 203	30s—Tripp-Tripp
Rm 204		Rm 204	Singles—Bentzel
Rm 205	40s&Up—Christensen-Hasler	Rm 205	Open—Regis-Anderson
Rm 206	Experiencing God—Graham	Rm 206	30s—Heritier-Sharp
Rm 207	40s-50s—McBrayer-Wicks	Rm 207	20s—Alexy/Jones
Rm 208	Women—Knox-Anderson	Rm 208	College—Ayres-Getchell
		Gym	Engaged/Young Married —Houston/Baker

October 10, 2004

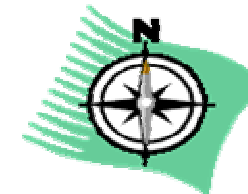
**Extreme Makeover (Inside Edition)**

*Principles of Internal Change From the Book of Romans*

**Celebration Fellowship**

**Well, Shut My Mouth**

**A preview of Romans 2:17-3:20**



Volume 3, Issue 6  
October 10, 2004

**Inside this issue:**

Introduction to Next Week’s Study	<b>1</b>
Summary of Last Week’s Study Questions	<b>1-2</b>
Study Guide	<b>2-3</b>
Life Group Questions	<b>4</b>

The old saying from the deep South, “well, shut my mouth”, describes the result of the week’s upcoming study. Some comments just stop us cold in our in tracks, and Romans 2-3 has the same effect. Anyway we look at it, mankind is shut up under sin, with no earthly hope for deliverance. While many think that their social status, nationality, or knowledge must make them special, God’s estimate of the Jews should dispel this notion. The Jews had God’s Law, and even taught it to others, but they themselves couldn’t keep it.

Their inability to practice God’s precepts brought dishonor on God’s name. Yet they relied on their distinctiveness as Jews, especially circumcision, to make them secure and special before God. Nevertheless, God requires inward obedience to His Law, and anyone who does this, whether Jew or Gentile, is right in God’s sight. Therefore, in spite of their connection with God, even Jews stand condemned before Him since they have not obeyed Him from their hearts. While God has been faithful to them, they have not been to Him. But



**God wants to remake us from the inside out.**

mankind in general has acted the same way. It is clear that none are righteous, none understand and none seek after God. All, having known their own law, or God’s Law, have failed to live up to it. The result is that no flesh will be justified in God’s sight. Every mouth has been shut.

**Equal Justice**

As one enters the Supreme Court building, they are greeted with the quote “equal justice under law”, which appears on the building’s façade. As Justice Lewis Powell has said, this is “perhaps the most inspiring ideal of our society”. Everyone seems to want equal justice (unless it’s for himself or herself). Not surprisingly, God is committed to this very thing: in the final analysis, everyone will be treated the same, receiving “equal justice”. This is not necessarily good, since mankind has universally rejected the revelation of God’s righteousness. He has unveiled His wrath against this rejection by giving mankind over to sexual immorality, to homosexuality, and to depraved minds that do things that are not only sinful, but also very unwise. God’s wrath is justified because mankind has suppressed what he intuitively knows about God—man is without excuse. God’s invisible characteristics, His eternal power and divine

**The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life**

- Worship—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God’s family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

**(Romans 1:18-2:16)**

nature, are seen throughout nature; but rather than leading to the worship of God, these have been perverted into idolatry. Man has come to worship and serve that which God has created rather than the Creator Himself. This has resulted in speculations that lead to futility, as every philosophical system throughout history has demonstrated. This, in turn, has caused their foolish hearts to become dark. In short, mankind’s rejection of the knowledge of God has limited their ability to make moral choices, as well as the ability to make healthy, wise decisions. This shows us that the only sensible path for a successful life is to begin with God, and His ways. As stated earlier God has responded to mankind’s rejection of Him by turning them over to destructive desires. They have gone beyond healthy sexual desire and have committed immorality, which correlates with their worship of the creature over the Creator. This,

in actuality, is a lie, because whenever things are worshipped, instead of the One who has created these things, there is no hope of living a full and meaningful life. Not only has God given mankind over to sexual immorality; He has also given them over to homosexuality—man to man, and woman to woman. The result of this sin is that it carries with it effects that occur within the sexual partners. This second judgment of God explains why this particular sin is rampant in our society today, and why its effects are so dramatic. Mankind has continued to reject God, suppressing any knowledge of Him, and has been left by God to pursue their most intense desires, apart from Him. Even with the negative effects of this, man has continued away from God, and has chosen to ignore Him. Therefore, God has further given him over to a depraved mind, to do sinful and improper things. They are filled with all kinds of sins, such as evil greed, and with relational sins like envy,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Romans 1:18-2:16 (continued from pg 1)

murder, and conflict. Sins of the tongue, like gossip, slander, and lies, are rampant and prideful sins like arrogance, boasting, and being hateful to God, are prevalent. New types of evil are even invented, parents are flagrantly disobeyed, and man kind is unloving, untrustworthy and refuses to be understanding. Worse than that, even though man knows that these things deserve God's judgment, they encourage others to do the same things. After showing the guilt of mankind in general, Paul then focuses on another group, one which considers themselves above Paul's previous accusations. These people judge others, but are actually without excuse because they do the very same things—although they don't admit it. This is a dilemma for them: since they clearly agree with God's standard, yet unwittingly violate it anyway, they, too, are under God's judgment. They are mistaken in two ways. First, they think that they will escape the judgment of God, even though they do the same things. Secondly, they fail to appreciate the kindness, forbearance, and patience of God, not realizing that He uses these things to draw people to repentance. Since they are not like this, they see no value to these things. But God is rich in kindness to us, as a first step to

bring us back to Him. Unfortunately, mankind rarely responds to God's kindness, due to his stubbornness and unwillingness to repentant. Since God promises to dispense justice according to everyone's works, this will result in His judgment—in this life as tribulation and distress, and in the life to come, as indignant wrath from God. However, to those who, seeking for glory, honor and immortality, persevere in doing good, the result will be just as they expect. This being said, only those who perfectly keep God's law, whether Jew or Gentile, will inherit glory, honor and peace. As everyone knows, and as the Bible teaches, there is no one who can fully do this. Since Jesus is the only One who has perfectly done good, faith in

Him is the only way to receive this promise of immortality. At this juncture in Romans, though, Paul's (and the Spirit's) point is that no one, whether they have the biblical law, or just have the law that their conscience dictates, will be able to measure up to God's standard of perfection, which is the same for all. Although all have the opportunity to try to do good perfectly, no will attain this; we will all stand condemned before God, because we have kept neither the biblical standard, nor our own. His standard is thoroughly fair because He will not only judge our actions, but our hidden thoughts as well. In summary mankind deserves the wrath of God in judgment because they have rejected their knowledge of Him, and of His wrath. They have worshipped His creation, rather than Him, the Creator, and have become idolatrous. They have treated God as irrelevant, and, even worse, have encouraged others to follow suit. As a result God has turned them over to sexual immorality, homosexuality, and depraved thinking. Furthermore, He has given tribulation to them in this life, and has promised wrath and indignation in the Day of Judgment. Because all have done these things, if left to ourselves, all will receive this judgment. This is truly "equal justice".



**"But God is rich in kindness to us, as a first step to bring us back to Him."**

## Study Questions for Romans 2:17-3:20

*Paul puts the finishing touches on his presentation that all mankind stands condemned before God.*

1. Read Romans 2:17-24. In what 8 things did the Jews pride themselves (v17-20)? Which of these indicate an attitude of superiority (v17, 20)?
2. From Romans 2:21-24 what did the Jews do wrong, in spite of their special relationship with God (v21-23)? What was the result of this behavior (v24)? What does this teach us?
3. Look at Romans 2:25-27. Upon what outward act or sign did the Jews rely (v25), but what was wrong with this thinking (v25)? Rather than circumcision, what really mattered (v26-27)? How can we apply this?



**"We will all stand condemned before God, because we have kept neither the biblical standard, nor our own."**

4. In Romans 2:28-29 how does Paul, by the Spirit, define a "true" Jew (v29)? What 3 things characterize a "true" Jew (v29)? What do you think this means?

5. Using Romans 3:1-2, is there any advantage to being a Jew outwardly (v1)? What is the first advantage given (v2), and why was this such an advantage over everyone else? What can we learn here?

6. Looking at Romans 3:3-4 what did some think Jewish unbelief meant (v3)? What was wrong with this argument (v4)? What principle does this bring out about how God's support and our responsibility relate?

7. Read Romans 3:5-6. To what contrast does Paul call attention (v5), and what did this show (v5)? How did some twist this against God (v5)? Why is this argument wrong (v6)?

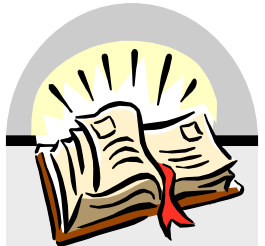
8. From Romans 3:7-8 what second contrast is pointed out (v7), what did it show (v7), and how did some twist this truth against God (v7)? How is this argument shown to be wrong (v8)?

9. Using Romans 3:9-12 what seven things are said to be true of every single person (9, 10, 11, 12)? How does this show the depth of man's condition, and how does this make you feel?

10. According to Romans 3:13-18 what specific sins are prevalent among mankind (13-14, 15-16, 17, 18)? How does this picture correspond to life today? Personally, which of these trip you up most?

11. From Romans 3:19-20 what does the Law do to everyone (v19), and why (v20)? What is the real purpose of the Law (v20), and how does it affect their relationship with God (v19)?

12. Review Romans 1:18-3:20. How is everyone shown to deservedly be under God's judgment in these sections (1:18-32; 2:1-16; 2:17-29; 3:9-18)?



## Memory Verse

**"...by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin."  
Romans 3:20**