

Things that Matter

Romans 2:17-3:20

A Matter of the Heart

2:17-29

- Paul calls out the Jews by name as he continues to address sin and God's judgement.
- Their self-righteous behavior was based on their advantage of knowing the law and their privileged relationship with God.
- They look down on Gentiles as those who needed their guidance and wisdom.
- Paul pokes holes in the Jews hypocritical behavior by spelling out their transgressions.
- They value the outward symbol of circumcision more than obedience to God's laws.
- Paul affirms that those who keep God's precepts have a changed and circumcised heart.
- It is the work of the Holy Spirit not the law that transforms hearts.

Examine your heart often and submit to the _____ of the Holy Spirit!

A Matter of Righteousness

3:1-8

- God's covenant relationship with the Jews is an unequalled privilege.
- The unfaithfulness of the Jews will never prevent God from keeping His promises.
- God will not absolve the Jews from judgement even if their sin highlights His glory.
- Salvation by grace through faith had been slanderously perverted as a license to sin.

Rejoice in God's righteousness knowing He is _____ to keep His promises.

A Matter of Unrighteousness

3:9-20

- Paul identifies himself with the Jews to whom he has been speaking.
- The Jews are not better off than others even though they have received greater privileges.
- Both Jews and Gentiles are enslaved and condemned by sin.
- Paul used the Old Testament Scriptures to affirm the universality of sin.
- Sin affects everyone and every aspect of people's lives.
- Words, actions, and attitudes are all tainted by sin.
- Sin flourishes when the fear of God is abandoned.
- The law was given so through it people would become conscious of sin.

Be convicted of your _____ and accept God's grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

Key: transforming work, faithful, sin nature

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GENESIS 17:9-11 And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you.”

DEUTERONOMY 30:6 “And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”

JEREMIAH 4:4 “Circumcise yourselves to the LORD; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem; lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of the evil of your deeds.”

ISAIAH 55:6-7 “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

DEUTERONOMY 7:9 “Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations...”

ROMANS 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

PROVERBS 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

ECCLESIASTES 12:13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

GALATIANS 2:15-16 We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

ROMANS 3:23-24 ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.