

The Auditorium Sunday School Class

June 7th, 2015

Text: Romans 2:17-24

Title: Religious Stumbling Blocks

Introduction: The greatest enemy that God has in this world is a group of people who know their Bibles but refuse to live by them.

- I. This chapter is dedicated to the stumbling block of arrogant religion.
 - A. The Jews were God's chosen people, and they allowed this privilege to make them arrogant. (17)
 1. They boasted that they were God's chosen (17).
 2. They relied on their knowledge of God's Law (17).
 3. They knew God's will (17).
 4. They approve of the excellent teachings of God's Law (17).
 5. They were instructed in God's Law (18).
 6. They were self-confident that they could be guides to others (19).
 7. They were instructors of those who knew little of God's Law (20).
 - B. The Jews confused their knowledge of the Law with godliness.
 1. Confusing your extensive knowledge with godliness is a subtle trap.
 2. The Jews compared themselves to ignorant Gentiles and became arrogant.
 3. Jewish arrogance led to the false belief that they were exempt from the practicing the Law because others did not even know the Law.
 - C. Paul gives four examples of religious arrogance (21-22).
 1. The Jews teach the practical application of the Law – but not to themselves (21).
 2. The Jews preach that others should be honest – but not to themselves (21).

3. The Jews admonish moral purity – but not to themselves (22).
 4. The Jews admonish the forsaking of idols – but not to themselves (22).
- D. The Jews believed that their superior knowledge of the Law exempted them from the practical applications of the Law.
- II. Biblical knowledge without practical application dishonors God (23-24).
- A. When those who know the Bible do not live according to the Bible they dishonor God (23).
1. Hypocrisy is an ever-present temptation of Biblical knowledge.
 2. Paul asks: “How can you dishonor God when you know so much about God’s Word?”
- B. Gentiles were laughing at God because of the Jews (24).
1. Gentiles were blaspheming God “through” the hypocrisy” of the religious Jews.
 2. Genuine faith will exemplify itself in your lifestyle.
 - See Galatians 3: 11-12 and Romans 2:13

Conclusion: What is a religious stumbling block?

Answer: Falling into the temptation of confusing your Biblical knowledge as synonymous with godliness, and believing that your knowledge exempts you from godly living.