

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Romans 2:17-29

Sunday, July 3, 2016

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. If you do not rely on the law, what do you rely on for your salvation. Describe your answer.

I rely on the Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior for my salvation. He died on the cross for my sins; He rose from the dead to grant me eternal life and fill me with the Holy Spirit. I am saved by His grace through faith in Him, so I cannot boast but only praise and thank Him for the

gift of eternal life. He fills me with the love, peace, and presence of God.

2. The Jews thought that in the law they had the embodiment of knowledge and truth (Romans 2:20). Do you agree or disagree? Give a reason for your answer.

I disagree. The moral law of God imparts knowledge and reveals truth about the true God and His holiness, but the moral law of God does not perfectly embody knowledge and truth. Jesus said He was the way, the truth, and the life. Paul wrote that all the fullness of God dwelt in Christ; “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority” (Colossians 2:9-10). The law shows us our need of Christ and points us to Him for salvation and the power to obey God.

3. Read Romans 2:23 again. How might you rephrase that verse to teach it to a persistently disobedient Christian?

“You who boast in knowing Christ and being a Christian, do you dishonor Christ by disobeying Christ?”

“You dishonor Christ Jesus when you disobey Him.”

4. Would you agree or disagree with the rephrasing or application of Romans 2:25 below?

“Baptism has value if you love and follow Jesus Christ, but if you walk away from Christ you are acting like one who was never baptized.”

5. Do you think Romans 2:29 could refer to both Gentile and Jewish Christians? Why?

Yes. I believe “Spirit” in this verse refers to the Holy Spirit and not our spirit. The Holy Spirit circumcises the hearts of those who trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. The Holy Spirit inwardly transforms those who repent and place their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. When by the grace of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit leads Christians they will receive praise from God, but not from those who rebel against God, disregard the moral law of God, practice sin, and praise those who practice sin as they do.

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