

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## ROMANS 2-3

A number of years ago People Magazine published a survey that measured attitudes toward various sins.

A numerical value was assigned to how guilty people would feel if they committed certain acts. On a scale of 1 to 10 sins were given a "Sin Coefficient" or a "Sindex" - 1 being "blameless," 10 "guilty to the max."

The worst sin was murder, with a Sindex of 9.84. Next was rape 9.77. Other sinister sins were child abuse 9.59, drug dealing 8.83, adultery 7.63... Middle of the road sins were sexual harassment 6.97, parking in a handicapped zone 5.53, greed 5.43, cheating on your income tax 5.35, and cutting in line 4.96... Then on the lower end of the sin spectrum, sins folks thought of as benign, were selfishness 4.92, gossip 4.1, jealousy 4.08, lust 3.65, and nude sunbathing 2.76...

According to the poll, for the most part vice and violence earned the highest Sindex, while sins of the heart came in lower... Yet in Romans 2-3 we discover that God sees sin differently. **God has His own Sindex!**

In Chapter 1 Paul picked apart the perversity of pagan Rome, and I'm sure as he did, most of his readers nodded in approval. In fact, some of us might've left last week feeling smug - a bit morally superior! And Paul senses our spiritual snobbishness.

Our sin may be more camouflaged - our wickedness might not always appear as such - but people who are religious, like

you and I, can be just as guilty. Not only are the heathen guilty of sin so is the religious crowd.

In Romans 1-3, in essence the Apostle Paul sets up court, with God as both our judge and prosecutor...

In Chapter 1 the **heathen** are tried and sentenced.

In Chapter 2 it's the **hypocrite** who's in the dock.

In Chapter 3 the **Hebrew**; then all **humanity** are on trial. Both unrighteous and self-righteous end up guilty.

For the first step to salvation is to realize our need.

Romans 2 begins, **"Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things."** Once, a woman was racing to catch her flight. She had no time for lunch, so she grabbed a pack of cookies on the way to the plane.

She was sitting in the aisle seat. A man was seated by the window. An empty seat was between them.

After the plane took off the woman reached over into the empty seat and opened the package of cookies to eat one. To her shock the man also ate a cookie. She thought, **"How dare this guy eat one of my cookies!"**

A few minutes later she ate another cookie. The man also took a cookie. She took one. He took one. Finally, just one cookie was left. The man reached for it, broke it in two, and gave it to the lady... She's was furious!

As they exited the plane she was rummaging through her purse looking for the claim ticket for her baggage. But guess what she found? **Her cookies!**

The whole time she was condemning the man for eating her cookies she was guilty of eating his!

Paul says to the hypocrite in us all - who are you to judge another when you **“practice the same things?”**

In Chapter 1 Paul took us on a tour of Skid Rome. The street is littered with broken glass. Police sirens scream. Windows and doors are screened with burglar bars. Prostitutes walk the streets, while derelicts lay in a gutter. Skid Rome is an obviously awful place to be.

But in Chapter 2 we realize that we all live closer to Skid Rome than we think. For the same seed that blooms there, lies just under the surface in our hearts.

The anger that causes you to shout an obscenity, if nurtured can pull a trigger to end a life... The lust you let grow in your heart, can send you to bed with a coworker, or make you a customer on skid row. Paul's point is, we have no right to condemn the adulterer or homosexual unless we've never sinned in our heart.

2 Corinthians 7:1 reads, **“Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit...”** Notice, both the flesh and spirit can get filthy. You can get dirty on the inside and on the outside - in attitude or in action.

The consequences of a spiritual sin may not be as immediate, or as felt as a sin of the flesh. You avoid the risk of venereal disease, or keep your family intact - but though the

fallout is less, the kernel is the same. In the eyes of **God the seed and deed are one.** This means don't judge the deed, if the seed grows in your heart.

Notice three times in verse 1 Paul uses the term **"judge."** The Greek term **"krino"** means **"to damn to hell."** It's not our call to condemn a person to hell.

But not all judgments are wrong or prohibited.

In Matthew 7 Jesus commands us to make certain judgments. He says, **"Beware of false prophets... By their fruits you will know them."** Apparently, **it's okay to judge for identification - just not for condemnation.**

If you're a dad, imagine a teenage boy arriving at your door expecting to take your daughter on a date. Beer cans litter the bed of his truck. A joint hangs out of his mouth. A folded porno magazine is in his pocket.

I hope there's not a father in this room who's not going to size this guy up, and refuse to let his daughter get near him. At this point, it's a dad's job to judge!

You don't need to condemn him to hell, or send him there. In fact, try to love him. Share the Lord with him.

Just don't you dare let your daughter anywhere near him. You're not being judgmental, but discerning!

What Paul forbids in verse 1 is a **"holier-than-thou attitude."** The idea that at the core of my being, I'm better, or more spiritual, or more righteous than you. The Bible teaches us that we're all sinners by nature.

In fact, a self-righteous man is quick to judge others. To justify himself he focuses on a person he thinks is worse. His goal is to make the other guy look bad, so he can look good! It's amazing how harsh we can be on others, and how lenient we can be with ourselves.

It's been said, "Faults are like headlights: the other car's lights always seem more glaring than your own."

Verse 2, "But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things." One of the reasons God forbids us from judging is that you and I seldom know the whole story.

Yet Psalm 19:9 tells us, "The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether." God alone sees things as they truly are, and can make the proper call. We're to do the loving, and let God do the judging.

Verse 3, "And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?"

Sometimes we think we're the exception to the rule. That God is going to judge everyone else, but me. At least, He'll grade me on the curve... Don't be foolish!

"Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?" The fact, God is a just judge, makes His mercy that much sweeter. That He could judge us, yet loves us instead, endears us to Him. His goodness leads us to repent.

I grew up in a church that tried to scare the hell out of people. Yet fear prompts a person to do just enough to avoid hell, it doesn't produce a desire to please God.

It's when you discover God's love, that you want to love Him in return. Holy desires aren't motivated by the horrors of hell, as much as by the compassion of God.

Verse 5, "But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God..." The Greek word translated "hardness" is "sclerosis." We call the hardening of the arteries, "arteriosclerosis." And this can happen to us spiritually. We can get a hard heart.

In the 1880s a clerk at Wells Fargo Bank found a way to steal a silver dollar every day. He brought the coin home and placed it in a trunk in his attic. But over time the trunk got so heavy that one night it broke through his ceiling and fell on the bank clerk while he was lying in bed asleep. It killed the man instantly.

And this is what Paul is saying can happen to us. A hard heart stores up God's wrath until one day the ceiling breaks and it all comes crashing down on you.

Verse 6, "Who will render to each one according to his deeds": eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness - indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace to



everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” God’s judgments are based on obedience - not good intentions, and not favoritism.

It’s not who you are that matters, it’s what you do. God will “render to each one according to his deeds...”

And it doesn’t matter if you’re Jew or Greek. Obey God, and you can expect glory, honor, and peace. Disobey God, and expect wrath, tribulation, and anguish. Verse 11, “For there is no partiality with God.”

“For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law...” God judges based on the opportunity we’ve had - the light we’ve received.

Those who’ve had the Bible will be judged according to the Bible. But those who’ve never read God's Word won’t be held responsible for what they never had.

Realize, all men sin and deserve to be punished, but the pygmy in the Amazon, who’s never heard God’s Word, will be judged differently than the person who’s lived his whole life hearing and rejecting God’s truth.

To be forgiven the only answer is Jesus, but the sin of every person is judged by the light they’ve received.

Verse 13 explains, “(For not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness,

and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)...” Some folks lack access to God’s Word, but that doesn't mean they're blind to God’s will.

God has declared enough of His will - through a myriad of ways - to hold all sinners accountable... Paul is saying that God reveals Himself to us in two different ways - through **divine law** (the Bible), and **natural law**.

Verse 15 lists three components to the **natural law**. First, is an innate sense of right and wrong - Paul calls this, “**the law written in their hearts...**” Second, is “**their conscience also bearing witness...**” Every person is born with a conscience, or an inner policeman who enforces right and wrong... Third, societies develop a moral consensus. Paul puts it, “**between themselves their thoughts accusing or excusing.**” It’s an agreed upon morality that forms through reason and logic...

All humans, whether they’ve been exposed to divine law or not, have **a sense of right and wrong, a conscience, and they’re privy to a moral consensus.**

The founders of our country spoke often of "**natural law**" and "**inalienable rights.**" They understood God created humans as moral beings. And even without the Bible we possess a knowledge of good and evil.

The Roman philosopher Plutarch was once asked, "**Who shall govern the governor?**" He replied, "**The Law... not written on papyrus rolls or wooden tablets, but his own reason within the soul, which perpetually dwells with him and guards him and never leaves his soul void of leadership.**" There is a law within every human, and tragically all men have broken that law.



Who has always done what they knew to be right in every situation? That's why every man needs the Gospel of Christ!... None of us can stand on our own "In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel." On that day God's judgment will be public and open for all to see.

Paul says all "the secrets of men" will be brought into the light of day. It reminds us of Matthew 10:26, "For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known." There are no secrets with God. This is why we all need the Gospel of Jesus.

I read about a Michigan woman vacationing in sunny Florida. She decided to do some nude sunbathing.

Recall on the Sindex that's only a 2.76 - no biggie (or so she thought). She found a secluded spot on the hotel's roof and started soaking up the rays. In minutes she got a visit from the manager, insisting she get dressed. She thought no one could see her, but she had actually stretched out on the dining room skylight.

And the warning, sins you thought were no big deal, actually are to God. If unforgiven they'll be naked and open for all to see! If you don't want your dirty laundry hung out on the line; seek the forgiveness of Jesus!

Verse 17, "Indeed-you are called a Jew, and rest (or rely) on the law, and make your boast in God..." In Chapter 1 Paul prosecuted the heathen. The first of Chapter 2 exposes the hypocrite. Now in verse 17 it's the Hebrews turn to stand before God the Judge.

The OT declared that Jews were God's chosen, but they let their heritage go to their head. They assumed who they were made them exempt from His judgment.

A Jewish tradition said Abraham sat at Hell's gate to keep Jews out regardless of how they lived. Trypho, a second century rabbi wrote, "They who are the seed of Abraham according to the flesh shall in any case, even if they be sinners and unbelieving and disobedient towards God, share in the eternal Kingdom."

The Hebrews brimmed with false confidence! The Bible teaches the greater the privilege the greater the responsibility. Rather than exempting them from judgment, their blessings levied a stricter judgment!

Paul continues to innumerate the Jews' advantages in verse 18, "And (they) know His will, and approve the things that are excellent, being instructed out of the law, and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law." The Jews were "instructed out of the law." The Greek word "instructed" is "katecheo" from which we get the term "catechism."

Year in, year out the law was repeated and drilled into their heads. It just never penetrated their hearts. They wrote, and read, and copied, and studied, and even taught the Law... they just failed to obey it!

Jewish synagogues were full of the same type of folks who sit in churches today. They'll miss heaven by 18 inches - the distance from their head to their hearts.

Verse 21 “You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal? You who say, “Do not commit adultery,” do you commit adultery? The Jews weren't obeying God's Law - certainly not its intent - but they eased their conscience by teaching the Law. There's an old saying, “Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach.” Jews were zealous teachers but horrible doers.

Paul asks the Jews in verse 22, “You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?” First century Jews hated idolatry. An idol robbed God of the glory due His name.

Yet Paul says the Jews ripped God off in more subtle ways. Malachi 3:8 said they robbed God by withholding “tithes and offerings...” And people today continue to steal from God. He wants us to honor Him with the first portion of our income and one day in seven - with the tithe and Sabbath. Instead our hoarding insults Him.

In verse 23 Paul asks, “You who make your boast in the law, do you dishonor God through breaking the law? For “the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you,” as it is written.” Paul quotes Isaiah 52:5. God intended for Jews to be a light to the Gentiles, instead their hypocrisy became a hindrance.

“For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.” Here was another Jewish assumption: circumcision alone made a man right with God. One Jew wrote, “Our Rabbis have said that no circumcised

man will see Hell." A Jewish commentary put it, "God swore to Abraham that no one who was circumcised should be sent to Hell."

Yet Paul reminds the Jews that circumcision is just a symbol. What matters to God is a person's heart. If you're a lawbreaker at heart; circumcision is worthless.

And there are Christians who make the same mistake. They substitute symbol for substance, replica for reality. People think that if they've been baptized, or take communion, or worship on a certain day, or join a specific church they're acceptable to God. Charles Hodge wrote, "Whenever true Christianity declines, there is a tendency to lay undo stress on external rites." Ritual and tradition can be a cover-up for what's lacking in the heart. Form never replaces faith!

Yet faith can override the lack of form. "Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?" An uncircumcised, pig-eating, Sabbath-working Gentile who trusts God ends up more acceptable to Him than the orthodox, kosher, circumcised Jew. Pleasing God is about faith not form.

"And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you (that is, the Jews) who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law?" It's probable a Gentile with a pure heart, will judge Jews who played the hypocrite.

"For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he

is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.”

To a Law-observant Jew this was the equivalent of a two-by-four between the eyes. Paul rattles the Jews.

They put their confidence in circumcision, but he tells them that the true family of God are the humble, the circumcised of heart. In Deuteronomy 30:6 God made a promise to Israel, "The LORD your God will circumcise your heart... to love the LORD... with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”

Physical circumcision was a foreshadowing - the symbol of a deeper cut or the eventual removal of our sin nature... In a sense we all need our wings clipped.

To domesticate a duck you clip its wings, or at the first hint of winter it'll fly south. Likewise, our sin nature makes us prone to go south on God. We tend to fly the coop. This is why we need to be spiritually clipped.

A genuine child of God, the person Paul called a true Jew, experiences a spiritual surgery - a **circumcision of heart**. God's Spirit cuts out our sin nature and replaces it with a nature of love and compliance to His will. A Christian is touched not by a scalpel, but by the Spirit.

Romans 3, “**What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?**” Here's the argument you'd expect from a Jew who read Chapter 2. If being born a Jew, and being circumcised, doesn't make you right with God is there any benefit to being Jewish?

Paul answers, “Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.” The word “oracle” refers to “a divinely inspired message.” Thus, the advantage of being a Jew was access to the Law. Having God’s Word was a national treasure that had spared Israel many pitfalls common among pagans.

There’s an interesting book titled, “None of These Diseases.” It’s by a medical doctor, S.I. McMillen. In the book Dr. McMillen describes how many of the OT laws helped the Hebrews avoid various illnesses.

For example, in the Middle Ages when the bubonic plague swept Europe, the one group largely unaffected were Jews. A kosher diet and hygiene laws prohibited deadly disease from spreading in their communities.

Verse 3, “For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? In the next few verses Paul anticipates questions from his readers. If we’re saved by God’s faithfulness, not ours; then if I’m not saved does that mean God is unfaithful?

Paul answers, “Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: “That You may be justified in Your words, and may overcome when You are judged.” On occasion I hear someone complain, “Pastor Sandy, I struggle with sin, but God refuses to deliver me. Christianity is just not working for me.”

When I hear that complaint, I have to make a choice. God promises to do His part, if we do ours! So if that’s not happening, who’s dropping the ball? I choose you! Either you or God are a liar! And I’m siding with God! As Paul puts it, “Let



God be true but every man a liar." It's you who needs to take another look at you!

"But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.)" Here's another question that might be asked. When a person sins, God judges righteously. So someone might say, "Well, if our sin puts God's righteousness on display, then don't we do Him a favor by sinning?" It is a silly argument, but Paul says he's dealing with silly people.

He answers, "Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world? For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner? And why not say, "Let us do evil that good may come"? - as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just."

Paul says our excuses don't match our coming reality. We all will be held accountable for what we do.

"What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin." This has been Paul's point for three chapters. The heathen, the hypocrite, and the Hebrew - all humanity is deserving of God's wrath!

We need to add another verse to the Sunday School jingle, "Red and yellow, black and white, we're all sinners in His sight." As Paul writes in verse 9 we're all "under sin." The phrase is "hupo harmartia." It means "under the influence or domination of sin." Man's problem is not that we've sinned

once, we're controlled by sin. Outside of Christ sin is our basic instinct.

Verse 10, **“As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one...”** Of the 100 billion humans who have walked this planet there has been only one person who was right in God's eyes - and His name is Jesus!

**“There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; they have together become unprofitable...”** The Greek word translated **“unprofitable”** was used to describe spoiled milk. God looks at humanity and says we're all rotten!

**“There is none who does good, no, not one.”** There is none, there is none, **“there is none who does good, no, not one...”** Paul shoots us down with the none gun.

Verse 13 illustrates man's evil, **“Their throat is an open tomb; with their tongues they have practiced deceit;”** **“the poison of asps is under their lips;”** **“whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood.”** We're sinful head to toe!

Verse 16, **“Destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.”** And with that Paul renders a final verdict on all humanity - guilty as sin!

Well, this has not exactly been “a feel good sermon,” but it's about to get good - real, real, good!

Verse 19, **“Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be**

stopped...” God’s intention is to shut up the boasts of the Jews, and all men - no one is good enough for God. “...And all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” The Jews mistakenly assumed they could be made right with God by adhering to the Law.

And folks today make the same mistake. They try to earn God's favor by conforming to a code of conduct, whether that be God’s rules or their own set of religious rules. Yet rules were never intended to save us, even God’s Law just showed us our sin.

The Law was like an X-ray. X-rays don't heal, they just reveal. God’s Law detected the fracture in our relationship with God. It showed our need, it didn’t fix it.

“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.” Here Paul sums up our condition, “For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”

The Hawaiian Islands are roughly 2000 miles from Los Angeles. Yet suppose you, I, and long jump champ, Carl Lewis (in his prime), decided to jump from LA to Honolulu. Carl jumps first and soars nearly 30 feet. You're next and you jump 10 feet - a respectable effort. I'm last and I clear 3 feet - I just ate a pizza.

Well, Carl did better than you, and you did better than me - but in light of 2000 miles none of us were even close. It's the same when it comes to God's glory!

Up against God, we all "fall short!" Or as another translation puts it, "we have all come in last." In God's Olympics Jesus wins, and everyone else ties for last.

But notice the revolutionary idea introduced in verse 22. It's stunning. There is a "righteousness of God apart from the Law." Who would have thunk it. In keeping the Law Jews were looking for righteousness in the wrong place... None of us are good enough to build our own resume of righteous behavior - but there is a righteousness apart from the Law. It has nothing to do with our performance! It's God's gift, given by His grace, paid for by Jesus, and received by us with faith.

Paul explains how it works in verse 24, "being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..." The word "justified" sounds like its definition - "just-as-if-I'd never sinned." Even though we're guilty, God treats us as if we're innocent.

In 1986 the US Congress enacted the Emergency Medical Treatment Active Labor Act. It requires hospitals to treat an emergency patient as if he can pay, even if he can't. This is the idea of justification.

God doesn't ignore that we're bankrupt spiritually. He knows we've sinned and can't afford salvation. Yet it doesn't stop Him from applying it anyway. In Christ He justifies us "freely" - or literally, "without a cause."

We also have the “redemption that is in Christ...” The word “redemption” came from the slave markets.

On rare occasion, a slave would endear himself to a citizen. The rich Roman would purchase the slave in order to set him free. He paid the slave’s debts in full, and freedom was granted. He was a slave no longer. He was “redeemed...” This is what Christ does for us!

God justifies us freely. He redeems us in Christ “whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness...”

Trace the word “propitiation” to its Hebrew root and you’ll find it referred to the “mercy seat,” the gold lid that covered the Ark of the Covenant in the Temple. The Ark was God’s throne on earth. Inside were the tablets of the Law. Over the Ark was God’s glory. So to behold His glory you faced His Law. But sinners failed to obey the Law, thus their sin barred them from God.

But God did something wonderful - He put a lid on the law. The blood of a sacrifice gained God’s pardon, and the blood-stained mercy seat became the meeting place between God and man. At the very place that once cried out for judgment, God brought mercy.

And this is what God did in Christ. Jesus is our mercy seat. At the place our sin was judged - the cross of Jesus - God applied the blood of His sacrifice and extended mercy to those who trust Him. Jesus put a lid on the law, and now extends mercy to all who believe.

And I marvel at what Paul says next, “Because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness...” Down through history God’s righteousness had cried out for man’s sin to be judged, but God waited. He passed over sin until the day when His Son took our sin on His shoulders to pay its price.

Today, Jesus is our “propitiation” or our place of mercy. He is the only place you can find God’s mercy.

And all this has happened so “that (God) might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

I love the phrase, “just and the justifier.” God loves you, but He can't bend the rules and be fair. The Judge can't fudge. God said, “the wages of sin is death.” Thus, Jesus died to pacify God's justice, and at the same time satisfy God's mercy. The cross of Jesus enabled God to save face and save us at the same time, making God both “just and the justifier.”

“Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.” The Jew boasted. He saw salvation as a prize he won. But justification by faith nullified pride. You can’t take credit if Jesus paid it all!

“Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.” All people are saved the same



way: **by grace through faith.** Thus, there's no more room for pride or prejudice.

Finally, **“Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.”** I love author Max Lucado’s comment on this verse, **“Faith causes us to be what the law truly wants.”** We're given grace, but then we're driven by that grace.

Grace fuels our engine. When you understand how much God loves you; you'll want to love Him in return.

And here I can testify, I've experienced far greater purity by resting in grace than I ever achieved by my own grit and discipline. Will power is no match for God's power. The key to victory is faith in God’s grace!