

Romans: A Study on Reformation
Lesson 28 “Christ is the End of the Law”

I. Introduction and Review - We are continuing our series on **Romans** today. Our focus in this series reformation, specifically reforming our relationships.

A. Here’s a first thing we need to reform about our understanding of **Romans**. Most people think it’s a letter about how we are justified by faith. That is true, but only a small part of the truth. The context of the letter is human relationships and bringing together different people groups with different belief systems around the centrality of Jesus.

B. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Rome to reform it in 57 A.D. prior to his trip to Jerusalem. He wrote to deal major issues the church in Rome was having issues which related to the banishment of the Jews from Rome in the year 49 A.D.

1. When the church in Rome began it was mostly comprised of Jews who converted to Christianity. The church culture was very much in line with Judaism (keep the law of Moses, focus on circumcision, keep the feast days, etc.)

2. In 49 A.D. the Roman Emperor Claudius banished all the Jews from Rome because of their religious and political disturbances. **Acts 18:1-2**. The Jews were banished until 54 A.D. when Nero became Emperor and said they could return.

3. When the Jewish Christians were banished, the only Christians left were Gentiles (the heathen). They were now in charge in the church in Rome and the culture of the church was completely different. Modern example would be if all of the traditional people were banished from town and the church was turned over to Millennials/Gen Z who brought in a more contemporary vibe to service.

4. Each side had an aura of superiority. The Jews thought they were better because they were God’s original chosen people and the Gentiles thought they were better because they were the replacement of the Jews since they rejected Jesus.

II. Christ is the End of the Law - in **Romans 9-11**, Paul shows how God elected Israel through Abraham to bring the Messiah through in order to save the rest of the world. He then shows how, Israel rejected Jesus so God had to move onto primarily focusing on the gentiles. He didn’t permanently cast away the Jews, however, because he goes on to say that believing Jews would be grafted back into the olive tree of Christ. Today, we are going to look at why the Jews rejected the Messiah and what those consequences would be. **We are also going to make application to us as 21st century gentile Christians and what happens when we reject the Messiah today.**

A. **Romans 9:30-33 Israel’s Present Condition**

1. **Verses 30-31** The gentiles who weren’t seeking righteousness attained it, while the Jews who pursued the law of righteousness didn’t attain righteousness. Ex: Modern example is people who trust their works, fasting, etc, to receive healing.

2. **Verses 32-33** According to **Galatians 3:13** *The law is not of faith. Verse 33* quotes **Isaiah 8:14-15** and **Isaiah 28:16-18** - *the covenant of death is annulled*. The law is a ministry of death according to **2 Corinthians 3**. On the day the law was given, 3,000 people died. On the day the spirit was given, 3,000 were saved.

B. Romans 10:1-4 Jesus is the Righteousness of God

1. **Verses 1** Paul was passionate to see the Jews saved because he knew the destruction that awaited them if they did not.
2. **Verses 2-3** show that being zealous/passionate is not enough (sometimes people say it doesn't matter what I believe as long as I believe in something or I'm passionate - not true). Zeal without knowledge can lead to destruction. This is why we want to be disciples of Jesus. We must feast on His words daily. Ex: me and my wrong view of grace and **Romans 8:1**.
4. **Verse 4** The first time I read that verse it scared me because I thought without the law, I'd do anything I want and it wouldn't be good. The law was my restraint. And it was because even as a Christian, I hadn't let the Holy Spirit transform my heart and change my want to's. Compare with **Colossians 2:14**.
 - a. The advantage of taking the law away is it removes fear so now I can come before God as I am and He can get the bad stuff out.

C. The Spirit of the Law - Jesus Showed a Higher Standard

1. **Matthew 5:17** Jesus came to fulfill the law and prophets.
2. **Matthew 5:21-22** Quotation of **Exodus 20:13**. Jesus raised the standard beyond the letter to the spirit of the law. Under the law, a person had to murder, but Jesus showed the standard that disqualified was unnecessary anger. The reason he did this was to get folks to give up on trusting themselves.
3. **Matthew 5:27-28** Jesus quotes **Exodus 20:14** and raises the standard again. Lust in the heart is as bad as doing the act.
4. **Matthew 5:43-48** This is a partial quotation of **Leviticus 19:18**. There is nowhere under the law where it says it's ok to hate your enemy. This was most probably a scribe's interpretation. Jesus is showing loving your neighbor and hating your enemy was never ok and once again raises the standard.
 - a. Jesus goes on to tell us to love our enemies and bless them which is a good practice to do and has spiritual benefit, but that really wasn't the entire point. The point was to raise the standard to get people to give up.
 - b. **Verse 48** tells us to be perfect like God is perfect. That's the standard!

III. Conclusion - My goal for today was to break you of striving so you'll surrender to the grace of God and seek Jesus for a transformed heart. The goal isn't to bring shame, it's to invite us to the one who will never shame us so He can change our want to's. **A change of heart that leads to radical devotion is what discipleship is all about. Jesus never shamed the broken, only**

the religious. This is also the key to having healthy relationships. We can't extend perfect love until we've first received it.

A. Last verse - **Hosea 2:14-17** - The transition from slave to lover.

B. Transition to Craig