


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.


The Jews and Those Under the Law

¹⁷ Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and brag about your relationship to God;

Q1. These verses are addressed to Jews: “if you call yourself a Jew”. Do these verses apply to us, today?

Q2. How can a person “rely upon the law”?

Q3. What can be bad about “[bragging] about your relationship to God” with others?

 brag (brăg) [Copyright © 2003-2024 Farlex, Inc <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/brag>]
1. A boast [boast: 1. To say (something about oneself) in a proud or self-admiring way].
2. Arrogant or boastful speech.

¹⁸ if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law;

Q4. How might we “know His will”?

Lesson 4: Romans 2:17-29

Q5. Can Christians fall into an attitude of superiority because of our belief and our knowledge of the Bible? Are Christians to judge the world? What is the Great Commission (↓)? How do we best fulfill Jesus' expectation (the Great Commission)?

Attitude of superiority? Yes? No? How to discern?

Are Christians to judge? Yes? No? Why?


Summarize the Great Commission?

How do we fulfill the Great Commission?

Matthew 28:18-20 [NIV-1984] [The Great Commission:]

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them [the Apostles] and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.


¹⁹ if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark,

Q6. Verse 19: When Paul writes, "you are a guide for the blind", whom is he referencing?

Matthew 15:12, 14 [NIV-1984]

¹² Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?" . . .

¹⁴ [Jesus replied,] "Leave them; they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

 The old adage: "The blind leading the blind."

Lesson 4: Romans 2:17-29

Matthew 23:15-17 [NIV-1984] [Jesus admonishes the self-righteous Jewish leaders:]

¹⁵ "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are.

¹⁶ "Woe to you, blind guides! You say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' ¹⁷ You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred?

Q7. In reference to Matthew 23:17 (↑): How do you answer Jesus' question: "Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred?" Why?

Which is greater: Gold? Or the temple? Why?

Matthew 5:21-22 [NIV-1984]

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' ^{22a} But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. ^{22b} Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. ^{22c} But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell.

Q8. Apologetics: Compare Matthew 23:17 (↑) to Matthew 5:22c (↑): Why did Jesus call the Pharisees "blind fools"? Does Jesus have the right (or authority) to call someone a "fool"? Or is He a hypocrite?

Notes on Matthew 23:17:

Notes on Matthew 5:22c:

Authority? Or hypocrite?

John 1:1-3 [NIV-1984]


¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John 5:26-27 [NIV-1984]

²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

Lesson 4: Romans 2:17-29

Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

²⁰ an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of infants, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth — ²¹ you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal?

Q9. In general: how does Jesus view the role of the teacher, the instructor?

Matthew 18:5-6 [NIV-1984]

⁵ "And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. ⁶ But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

James 3:1 [NIV-1984]

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

Q10. Verse 20: What is the "law"?

Q11. How does Jesus view the teachers, the instructors, who are referenced in verse 20?

Q12. Verse 20: Who are the "foolish"? In our just completed Romans 1 Study, we read Romans 1:22; what does this verse 22 (↓) mean to you?

Romans 2:20: who are the foolish?

Romans 1:22: "wise . . . fools" meaning?

Romans 1:18-25 [NIV-1984]

¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

Lesson 4: Romans 2:17-29

²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities — his eternal power and divine nature — have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator — who is forever praised. Amen.

Q13. Verse 20: How does “the law . . . [embody] . . . knowledge and truth”?


Matthew 5:17-20 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS); a paraphrase]

“You must not think I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to complete them. Indeed, I assure you that, while Heaven and earth last, the Law will not lose a single dot or comma until its purpose is complete. This means that whoever now relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men to do the same will himself be called least in Heaven. But whoever teaches and practises them will be called great in the kingdom of Heaven.

For I tell you that your goodness must be a far better thing than the goodness of the scribes and Pharisees before you can set foot in the kingdom of Heaven at all!

Galatians 3:24-25 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS); a paraphrase]


Before the coming of faith we were all imprisoned under the power of the Law, with our only hope of deliverance the faith that was to be shown to us. Or, to change the metaphor, the Law was like a strict governess in charge of us until we went to the school of Christ and learned to be justified by faith in him. Once we had that faith we were completely free from the governess's authority.

 From my own life experiences, this author can attest to the truth of verse 21 “you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself?” The learning that I personally receive is greater and more profound as I pray, research Scripture, and develop these lessons/StudySheets. I have participated as a student in other Bible Studies and I have definitely learned from them. I became a Believer through one of those Bible Studies! Praise the LORD! You, the student, are to be commended for your devotion to Scripture and your desire to learn!

That said, in verse 21 Paul is admonishing these foolish teachers that they should be taking to heart the principles they are imparting to their students. They should learn from their own teaching! It is as if the teachers are saying to their students, “Do as I say, not as I do!”

Lesson 4: Romans 2:17-29

Day 4

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22 You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

Q14. [Personal] To you who believe: if your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, do you willingly sin (e.g., gossip, lie, 'borrow' things and forget to return them, hurt others, lust)? And if you willingly sin, how might you be robbing (or polluting) a "temple"?

Sin? Yes? No? Thoughts?

How might someone rob a temple?

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS); a paraphrase]

Don't you realise that you yourselves are the temple of God, and God's Spirit lives in you? God will destroy anyone who defiles his temple, for his temple is holy — and that is exactly what you are!

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS); a paraphrase]

Have you forgotten that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you, and that you are not the owner of your own body? You have been bought, and at what a price! Therefore, bring glory to God both in your body and your spirit, for they both belong to him.

23 You who brag about the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law?

Q15. If you teach others (about any subject), do you learn more about the subject than what you teach?

Q16. Through Paul's questions (verses 17-23 ↑), what is he trying to convey?

Lesson 4: Romans 2:17-29

²⁴ As it is written: "God's name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you."



Blasphemy is defined as

1a: Contemptuous or profane speech or action concerning God or a sacred entity.

2a: Irreverent or impious action or expression in regard to something considered inviolable or sacrosanct.

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Q17. Since this section of Paul's letter to the Romans is addressed to the Jews (Romans 2:17 ↑), how could they have "blasphemed [God's name] among the Gentiles"? [Romans 2:17-24 (↓) is duplicated below, version: The Message]


Q18. How might "Christians," today, blaspheme God's name?

Romans 2:17-24 [The Message (MSG); a paraphrase]

¹⁷⁻²⁴ If you're brought up Jewish, don't assume that you can lean back in the arms of your religion and take it easy, feeling smug because you're an insider to God's revelation, a connoisseur of the best things of God, informed on the latest doctrines! I have a special word of caution for you who are sure that you have it all together yourselves and, because you know God's revealed Word inside and out, feel qualified to guide others through their blind alleys and dark nights and confused emotions to God. While you are guiding others, who is going to guide you? I'm quite serious. While preaching "Don't steal!" are you going to rob people blind? Who would suspect you? The same with adultery. The same with idolatry. You can get by with almost anything if you front it with eloquent talk about God and his law. The line from Scripture, "It's because of you Jews that the outsiders frown on God," shows it's an old problem that isn't going to go away.

Lesson 4: Romans 2:17-29

Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

25 Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised.

Genesis 17:9-14 [NIV-1984] [The Covenant of Circumcision Given to the Jews Through Abraham]

⁹ Then God said to Abraham, "As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. ¹⁰ This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹ You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. ¹² For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner — those who are not your offspring. ¹³ Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. ¹⁴ Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

Q19. If a Jew was circumcised as dictated by Jewish Law, did Paul say that was enough in God's eyes?

Q20. "Circumcision" is generally thought to be a physical act (surgery) that removes a flap of skin from male babies. Can "circumcision" have a spiritual meaning (or a symbolic representation) that applies to both males and females?

Deuteronomy 10:12, 16 [NIV-1984] [Moses had just received the second set of the Ten Commandments from the Lord.]

¹² And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul . . . ¹⁶ Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer.

Jeremiah 4:4 [NIV-1984]

Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, circumcise your hearts, you men of Judah and people of Jerusalem, or my wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done — burn with no one to quench it.

Lesson 4: Romans 2:17-29

Q21. What does “faith without deeds” mean to us, today?


James 2:26 [NIV-1984]

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

²⁶ If those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised?

Q22. “I am a good person. I believe there is a God in Heaven. I know, too, that Jesus was said to be a good person. I think that I am going to Heaven because I do good things and I help people a lot.” Are there errors in my beliefs?

Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

²⁷ The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker.

Q23. How can a person, who is not circumcised physically, condemn the Jew who has God's written Law?

Lesson 4: Romans 2:17-29

²⁸ A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. ²⁹ No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.

Q24. What does the Holy Spirit do to a Believer (within the Believer)?

John 5:24 [NIV-1984]

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

John 14:6 [NIV-1984]

Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Ephesians 1:13-14 [NIV-1984]

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.

Philippians 1:4-6 [NIV-1984] [Paul writes,]

⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. [We are works-in-progress through the continual refining work of the Holy Spirit!]

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