

July 03, 2016



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Remember, God requires justice, mercy, and humility, no matter where we live

**COMMENT FOR THE WEEK:**

Martin Luther's advice to people who believed they could please God by journeying to a sacred shrine: "Let anyone go on a pilgrimage who feels compelled to do so; but let him remember that God can be served a thousand times better at home by giving the money the journey would cost to his own wife and children and bearing his cross with patience." What God requires, God provides.

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

*But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.*

(Matt 9:13 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Dec 15, 2000)

**Series: Toward A New Salvation**

**UNIT: A World Gone Wrong**

**NEXT WEEK**

**Struggling Under Sin's Power**

(Rom 3:9-20)

## Ignoring The Law's Requirements Rom 2:17-29

**Aim and Application of the Lesson**

The lesson reviews the examples of religion going wrong by **Ignoring The Law's Requirements**. The **study's aim** is to understand that, as Christians, we need to put into action what we say we believe. The **study's application** is to so order our lives that we act from the heart on our belief in the truth.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

**Lesson Introduction and Background**

Our lesson text concerns the classic problem of mere external religion versus inward salvation. The religious Jew is addressed throughout the passage surrounding the text, and we must remember what that involved. The Jews had the Old Testament law, and they had counted and listed all the commands of the Old Testament. They also had developed many rabbinical laws, which they believed would give help in keeping the laws and commands of God's Word. They embraced all this and taught it to others (cf. Rom. 2:17-20). They believed that this, along with circumcision, the sign of religious duty, would keep them safe before God. Yet none of them could keep all of God's laws perfectly. Clearly, something more is needed than circumcision and mere human effort to conform to the requirements of God's laws. It is tempting for people everywhere to seek satisfaction in God through religious duties. This is done throughout the whole world. Even in our churches, many are tempted to think that God is satisfied by regular church attendance or participation in sacraments or rituals. But no external religious deed alone can save us or deliver us from the breaking of God's commands (cf. Rom. 2:25). Circumcision of the flesh could not save the Jew, and no mere religious deed can save anyone, for the plain truth is that every person is a lawbreaker. So what our text points out is that we must see that the law's true intent is to show the need of inward conversion rather than just outward religion. This is emphasized in three ways. First, a true Jew or true believer is determined by what happens inwardly. The external practices of religious duty do not have saving power. A true work of God's Spirit must penetrate our inner man. Next, emphasis is placed on the fact that truth must extend to the heart. True circumcision, the one that really counts, is the one that removes the guilt of sin by a gracious work of God's Spirit. It cannot be accomplished by some physical act. Finally, the true work of salvation does not seek the praise and approval of men but of God. Attempting to conform to religious law by outward acts alone inevitably becomes a source of pride as we display to others how "righteous" we are in keeping the law. In short, we must not choose religious law keeping; we must seek true conversion. This is the intent and spirit of God's law and God's Word. This is what we must preach to all men so that there is no misunderstanding. In fact, as we encounter those who are caught up in religious duty, it is important to lovingly and gently confront them, presenting the truth of grace, a Spirit-given inward conversion brought about by faith alone, in Christ alone. Sometimes this can be difficult. We are tearing down a well-built house. Yet as our text makes clear, true circumcision is that of the heart. Someone has said that it is impossible to avoid offending guilty men. Maybe that is so. But when we challenge religious law keeping, many may be led to the Saviour. Let us seek to build a house of grace and not of works.

*(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **IGNORING BY NOT KEEPING THE LAW (ROM 2:17-24)**

*By boasting on works (17)*

Because boasting on works ignores God's gift (Eph 2:8-9)

Because boasting on works ignores faith (Rom 3:27-28)

Because boasting on works ignores grace (Rom 11:6)

Because boasting on works ignores God's purposes (2 Tim 1:8-9)

Because boasting on works ignores God's mercy (Titus 3:4-7)

*By self-confidence in knowledge (18-20)*

Because human knowledge is frustrated by God (1 Cor 1:18-21)

Because human knowledge is foolishness in God's sight (1 Cor 3:18-19)

Because true knowledge comes from God (Eph 1:6-9)

Because human knowledge puffs one up (1 Cor 8:1-2)

Because human knowledge makes one wise in his own eyes (Prov 26:12)

*By being a hypocrite (21-24)*

Because hypocrisy shuts the kingdom of heaven from others (Matt 23:13)

Because hypocrisy causes us to fail seeing our own sin (Luke 6:42)

Because hypocrisy causes divisions and obstacles (Rom 16:17-18)

Because hypocrisy causes actions to not agree with words (Titus 1:15-16)

Because hypocrisy causes one to neglect important things (Matt 23:23-24)

### **IGNORING BY RELYING ON CEREMONY (ROM 2:25-27)**

*Ceremony versus obedience (25)*

Because obedience is greater than sacrifices and offerings (1 Sam 15:22)

Because obedience is an obligation (Rom 8:12-14)

Because obedience should be done regardless of circumstances (Dan 3:16-18)

Because One cannot be in an intimate relationship with Jesus without obedience (John 15:14)

Because one cannot be successful without obedience (Joshua 1:8)

*Ceremony versus God's judgment (26-27)*

Because all will appear at God's judgment (2 Cor 5:10)

Because man is destined to face God's judgment (Heb 9:27)

Because we must be prepared for God's judgment (Amos 4:12)

Because the stubborn and unrepentant should expect God's judgment (Rom 2:5)

Because through God's judgment He knows how to rescue and punish (2 Peter 2:9)

### **IGNORING BY RELYING ON FAMILY TIES (ROM 2:28-29)**

*Not outward but inward (28)*

Because the outward can produce wrong impressions (2 Cor 10:7)

Inward because God knows the heart (Luke 16:15)

Inward because God understands motives (1 Chron 28:9)

Inward because God searches the heart and mind (Jer 17:10)

Inward because nothing is hidden from God (Heb 4:13)

Because outward judgments are not valid (John 7:24)

*God view of the circumcision of the heart (29)*

It is to remove stubbornness (Deut 10:16)

It is to aid in loving God (Deut 30:6)

It is to avoid God's wrath (Jer 4:4)

It is done by God only (Col 2:11)

It is a way to avoid putting confidence in the flesh (Phil 3:3)