

## ROMANS – FROM GUILT TO GLORY

### The Dark Side Of Pride.

#### Romans 2: 17-20

Some people's idea of Christianity is:

- Like a treadmill, you get on it and you work hard to meet the demands of religious leaders or peers but at the end of the day you are no farther from you sin nor any closer to God.
- That describes religion, “all pain and no gain.”

Paul in 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Romans has been addressing this same issue to his Jewish audience in the believers of Rome.

- They strove to be righteous by being religious.

Read **Romans 2:17-20**.

Pride is not a bad thing

- Pleasure.
- Joy.
- Delight.
- Gratification.
- Fulfillment.
- Satisfaction.

But when pride turns to the “dark side” then comes the word “arrogance”.

- Haughtiness.
- Conceit.
- Egotism.

**Isaiah 49:6**

- I will make you a light to the nations.
- So that My salvation may reach the end of the earth.
  - This desire and purpose of God has never changed, but now the charge is ours as followers of Christ.

But what happens when our relationship with God causes us to be prideful and arrogant.

**Proverbs 16:18.**

Paul says to his Jewish audience that there were 4 sources of religious arrogance and pride:

- **Verse #17** - Their title – The very name “Jew” came from “Judah” meaning Yahweh be praised.
  - **Zechariah 2:8.**
- **Verse #17** - Their possession of the Law – God had not called any other nation up Mt. Sinai to receive the Law like He had the Hebrews.
  - Pride had now moved in the hearts of the Jew to not only possess the Law but to put their hope in it.
- **Verse #17** - Their unique relationship with God – the Jew thought that, due to their special relationship with God as His chosen people, they would be exempt from God’s judgment.
  - Surly God will not judge the apple of His eye.
  - **Micah 3:11-12.**
  - In AD 70 Jerusalem would be leveled by the Romans, not one stone would be left upon another.
- **Verse #18** - Their knowledge of God’s will – God would send Prophet after Prophet to be His spoke person to lead His people.
  - **Jeremiah 9:23-24.**
  - **Jeremiah 29:11-14.**
  - The Jew had for a long time not searched for God with all their hearts.

What a privilege, to bear the name of God before the nations, to have His Law to guide our steps, to have a relationship with God that no other nation has, and to know God’s will.

But with privilege comes great responsibility, Paul reminds his Jewish brothers and sisters of this in **verses 19-20: (Psalm 119:1-7 / 176 verses)**

- Their responsibility to instruct the nations –
  - A guide to the blind.
    - **II Corinthians 4:3-6.**
  - A light to those that are in darkness.
    - **Matthew 5:14-16.**
  - A corrector of the foolish.
    - A disregard of final issues.
    - **Jude 17-23.**
  - A teacher to the immature.
    - **I Corinthians 3:1-3.**

- An article in Outreach Magazine by Eric Geiger says the spiritually immature usually show 3 signs:
  - An immature believer cannot help others.
  - An immature believer creates division not unity in the body of Christ.
  - An immature believer displays gifts without grace.