



Romans 2:17 - 3:8

Have a Humble Heart | February 23rd - March 1st, 2014

Warm-up: Why do you think so many today ascribe to the belief that we can somehow generate within ourselves a righteousness that will be “acceptable” to God on Judgment Day? Whose standard of “goodness” are people measuring up to?

- Read **Luke 18:9-14** aloud. Self-righteous “praying” is powerless. Why? Because “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6).
 - Jesus’ condemnation of self-righteousness was especially strong toward the Jewish religious leaders of the day. Why exactly?
 - Do you sometimes find it difficult to appeal to God’s mercy in your own life? Why or why not?

- The fact that Jesus lived a completely sinless life is *really* good news for us. This is because only through Jesus’ perfect track record was complete righteousness then deposited into our account when we first trusted in Christ. Without complete righteousness we would have no hope of salvation.
 - Read **Philippians 3:7-11** aloud. How does this text encourage, challenge, or convict you personally? Do you relate with Paul? How so?

- **Romans 2:17 - 29** shows us that simply *associating* with spiritual things will never make us righteous.
 - In the past we probably all have sought acceptance from God based on “associating” with the right kinds of things. Share from your own story how this may have been the case.

- Pastor George commented on Sunday that our teaching must flow out of our doing. To “walk the walk” in authentic humility is an essential part of maintaining a solid witness for Jesus.
 - Share an area of your life that Jesus is shaping you in right now. Why are you inspired to “walk the walk” more faithfully in this area?

Wrap-up: Glance through **Psalm 51**. What ministers to you most in this? Praise Him for whatever impacted you as you close in prayer.