



No, not one.

Romans 3:9-20

Sermon Recap:
“Why Religion Cannot Save”

- a. Religious practices and religious knowledge do not necessarily lead to faith in God.**

**Religious
practices**



**Religious
knowledge**



**Faith
in God ?**

Sermon Recap: “Why Religion Cannot Save”

- a. Religious practices and religious knowledge do not necessarily lead to faith in God.
- b. We need to distinguish between the form and the substance of religion. *It is possible for one to master the Word without recognizing the Master of the Word.***

John 5:39-40

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

Sermon Recap: “Why Religion Cannot Save”

- a. Religious practices and religious knowledge do not necessarily lead to faith in God.
- b. We need to distinguish between the form and the substance of religion. *It is possible for one to master the Word without recognizing the Master of the Word.*
- c. **Not only does religion not save, it might actually prevent us from being saved!**

2 Timothy 3:5

“having a **form** of godliness but **denying**
its power...”

Sermon Recap: “Why Religion Cannot Save”

- a. Religious practices and religious knowledge do not necessarily lead to faith in God.
- b. We need to distinguish between the form and the substance of religion. *It is possible for one to master the Word without recognizing the Master of the Word.*
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Romans 2:28-29

For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; **but he is a [Christian] who is one inwardly; and [baptism] is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.**

Romans 3:1-9

1 What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? **2** Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.

3 For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? **4** Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: “That You may be justified in Your words, and may overcome when You are judged.”

5 But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unjust who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.) **6** Certainly not! For then how will God judge the world?

7 For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner? **8** And why not say, “Let us do evil that good may come”? —as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.

9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin ...

Romans 3:1-2

What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?

Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles* of God.

* “whole revelation”, “very words”, “Holy Scriptures”

Romans 3:9-12

9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.

10 As it is written:

“There is none righteous, no, not one;

11 There is none who understands;

There is none who seeks after God.

12 They have all turned aside;

They have together become unprofitable;

There is none who does good, no, not one.”

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Romans 3:9-20

- a. **No one is righteous. (v10-12)**
- b. **How are we not righteous. (v13-18)**
- c. **Why we *cannot* be righteous. (v19-20)**

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**Eccl.
7:20**

**Psalms
14:1-3**

Psalms 14:1-3

1 The fool has said in his heart, “ There is no God.”

They are corrupt, they have done abominable works; There is none who does good.

2 The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, **to see if there are any who understand, who seek God.**

3 They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one

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Ecclesiastes 7:20 (NASB)

Indeed, there is not a **righteous** man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.

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Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who **continually** does good and **who never sins.**

Un-Righteousness

- Not about extent but nature

“But the moral law, as a great teacher of mine once put it, is like a sheet of glass. If it is broken, it is broken.”

(N. T. Wright)

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- Not only its presence (sin) but potential

Un-Righteousness

- Not about extent but nature
- Not only its presence (sin) but potential
- Not whether you did it, but that you would have done it if there was no penalty

Matthew 15:16-19

So Jesus said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? But **those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart**, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

Romans 3:13-18

- 13 “Their throat is an open tomb;
With their tongues they have practiced deceit”;
“The poison of asps is under their lips”;**
- 14 “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.”**
- 15 “Their feet are swift to shed blood;
16 Destruction and misery are in their ways;
17 And the way of peace they have not known.”
18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

Romans 3:9-20

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Isa.

59:7-8



Isaiah 59:7-8

Their feet run to evil,
And they make haste to shed innocent blood;
Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity;
Wasting and destruction are in their paths.
The way of peace they have not known,
And there is no justice in their ways ...

Romans 3:13-18

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Romans 3:19-20

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, **for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**

Isaiah 64:6

But we are all like an unclean thing,
And all our righteousness are like filthy rags;
We all fade as a leaf,
And our iniquities, like the wind,
Have taken us away.

Isaiah 53:6

All we like sheep
have gone astray;
We have turned, every one,
to his own way;
And the Lord has laid on Him
the iniquity of us all.

“ Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men— extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess. ’

And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner! ’

I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other.

Romans 3:10-12

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“I am not O.K. You are not O.K. No one is O.K. And the sooner we admit that we are not okay and turn to the One who knows that we are not, but who offers us a way of salvation anyway, the better off we will be... The most important thing in life is to know that Jesus is able to save you from sin. The second most important thing is to know that you require it.

(James M. Boice)