

#7 Bad News and Good News *Romans 2:12-29 (ESV)*

Romans is headed toward **A MOUNTAINTOP** in Romans 11:33-36.

Romans 11:33-36 (NIV) *Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?” “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?” For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.*

A. The Bad News: God’s Judgment and Wrath Against Sin

- The 10,000 foot view of Romans 1:18-3:20’s argument: the bad news for humanity is that all people, both Jew and Gentile, are alike under God’s judgment and wrath because of sin.
- Keys: Romans 1:18-19, 2:9-12, 3:19-20
- Cf: Ephesians 2:1-3

Romans 2:12-29 primarily lays out the Jews’ need of salvation in and through Christ (aka not by “the letter” or works of the law) regardless of their understanding of the Law or what circumcision represented under the Old Covenant.

- The passage’s big idea is that personal sin will result in judgment before God for Jews, just as for Gentiles.
- Romans 2:12 b ...all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.
 - vv 12-24: Well, what about God’s Law and its many advantages for the Jews?
 - vv 25-29: Well, what about the symbol and promise of circumcision under the Old Covenant?

B. The Good News: The Grace of God In Jesus

The good news of the grace of God in Jesus to undeserving law-breakers is the deepest message of the Bible.

Romans 2:28-29 Circumcision of the heart by the Spirit.

- A (real) Jew is one **INWARDLY**.
- (True) circumcision is a matter of **THE HEART**.
- This work is done by **THE SPIRIT**, not by the letter.

C. Paul’s Mountaintop Is For You

- For the curious or lost: come **JOIN US** up there.

Memory Verse

Romans 10:9-10 ...if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

- For the Christian: **DON’T FORGET** Jesus’ invitation. It’s for you, and it still stands.

Matthew 11:28-30 *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”*