

# Romans 2:1-4

## Don't Snub the Truth

**Scripture:** Romans 2:1-4, Matthew 7:1-5, Luke 18:9-14

**Memory Verse:** Romans 2:4 *“Do you despise the riches of His goodness...not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?”*

**Lesson Focus:** Last week in chapter 1, we looked at the unrighteous person who “suppresses” the gospel truth of God. In chapter 2, Paul unexpectedly shifts the spotlight onto the moral self-righteous person who “snubs” the truth of God by trusting in his own goodness rather than in Jesus. This is a trap that “churchy people” like our RMC kids can fall into. We will challenge them to never forget that both the “churched” and the “unchurched” need to trust in the kindness and grace of God alone.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Picture of Memory Verse, Word Search of different terms from lesson, New Bring it Home Sheet for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Craft for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>: Pharisee and Tax Collector Puppets

**Starter Activity:** Expectations

Consider getting the lesson started by having some quick discussion about the kinds of “expectations” that kids have. Here are some sample questions:

- 1) What do you “expect” to happen around your birthday? (party/presents) \*
- 2) Where do you “expect” to be on Monday morning? (at school/doing school)
- 3) What do you “expect” to be doing at 2AM tonight? (sleeping)

Then transition the discussion into expectations about what happens at church:

- 1) What do you “expect” to happen at church? (singing, Bible reading, etc.)
- 2) What do you “expect” from me as your teacher? \*

At this point, totally surprise the kids with something strange and unusual that will catch them off-guard. The stranger and sillier the better. \* Make it fun! Here are some ideas:

- Pretend to be a PE coach and have the kids do wall-sits
- Pretend to be different animals with the kids pretending with you around the room
- Pretend to “clean” the kids by spraying (with water bottle) and wiping them down

Q: Is this what you expected from me today?

A: NO!

Well, as we continue in the book of Romans today, the author (Paul) is going to take us in a surprise direction that we wouldn't expect. \* Buckle your seatbelts!

## Bible Study:

**Romans 2:1a:** Our passage begins with “*Therefore*”. Every time you start reading the Bible with the word “therefore” you should ask: “*What is it ‘THERE FOR?’*” \* We first need to go back to chapter 1 and review some of what we learned last week.

Read **Romans 1:18**, which we studied last week. Paul calls out people who “suppress” the truth about Himself. (**Teachers:** When we taught this lesson last week, we used an inflatable cross and a bowl of water to illustrate people “suppressing” the truth. We will have these for you this week and encourage you to use them again. \* See the lesson from last week [here](#) on how this was illustrated.)

The rest of chapter 1 describes the downward spiral of destruction \* that comes upon people as they “suppress” this truth. (**Teachers:** Summarize **Romans 1:28-32**, and point out some of the sins that kids would understand)

So the previous chapter wraps up showing how unbelievers \* who reject God (suppress the truth about Him) instead do whatever sins they want. This brings us back to our “*Therefore*” of **Romans 2:1**.

Q: How might you “expect” Paul to finish his thought in this verse? A: Perhaps that these people deserve punishment for all their sin (which they do). Well, instead....

**Romans 2:1b:** He goes in a completely “UNexpected” direction and points to people \* like you and me: the people who know about God. You could say that **Romans 1** is about “non-churchy” people’s sin. But now **Romans 2** is about “churchy” people’s sin. \*

You see, if us “churchy” people aren’t careful, we can start to judge or “compare” ourselves to others in ways that puff us up. This is called *self-righteousness*, where we think we are better than others and impressive to God.

Jesus Himself warned against self-righteously comparing and judging in **Matthew 7:1-5**. Let’s read a few of these verses.

**Matthew 7:3-4:** Jesus challenges us not to be so quick to point out the sin in another person when we have our own sin clouding our vision. (**Teachers:** Consider bringing in a large piece of wood or a pool noodle and put it up against your eye. Then clumsily walk around the class pretending to point out everyone else’s flaws)

**Matthew 7:5:** Jesus rightly calls such people hypocrites. Hypocrites are quick to point out other people’s flaws, but are blind to their own. And if we are honest, every one of us falls into this trap.

Q: Have you ever pointed out your brother’s messy room when yours is also messy?

Q: Have you ever pointed out your sis taking an extra cookie when you secretly did too?

(**Teachers:** Consider sharing a story of yours when your hypocrisy was exposed!) \*

**Romans 2:2:** Last week we talked about how God is perfectly righteous (**Romans 1:17**). Here we see that not only is He perfectly righteous, but He is also the perfect Judge. \* And God doesn't miss ANYTHING! All of us, both the "churchy" and the "unchurchy" will stand before Him, after we die. (**Hebrews 9:27**)

We've seen from chapter 1 how the "unchurchy" suppress the truth and how they need to repent and believe in Jesus to be saved. \* But what about the self-righteous "churchy"? Well, here is what happens when "churchy" people like you and me fall into the self-righteous trap of comparing ourselves to others: We begin to think we are OK with God because we "aren't THAT bad". We trick ourselves into thinking we are "good enough" and therefore God is going to take it easy on us. \* **This is wrong!**

Instead of "suppressing" the truth of the gospel we "snub" or ignore that truth. For we are trusting in our own goodness, rather than the goodness of God. (**Teachers:** Using the bowl of water with the cross, point out how such "churchy" people are too proud to cling to the cross for salvation and instead they swim around it their own. They will drown!). \*

**Romans 2:3:** The "churchy" person may not have sinned as bad as the "unchurchy" person, but he still has to answer to God for his own sin! \*

**Romans 2:4:** The self-righteous "churchy" person has forgotten the goodness of God. They are "snubbing" and ignoring God by trusting in themselves. But it is the kindness and mercy of God, as demonstrated in the gospel, that the "churchy" person needs just as much as the "unchurchy" person! \*

Let's close with a story that Jesus told that truly captures the point of this lesson.

**Teachers:** Read **Luke 18:9-13** slowly. Point out how the Pharisee is like the "churchy" person who does all of the right "churchy" stuff while the tax collector is like the worst sinner you can imagine. Before you finish with v. 14, ask a couple of questions:

Q: Who was the "churchy" Pharisee trusting in? \* A: Himself.

Q: Who was the tax collector trusting in? A: The kindness and grace of God!

**Luke 18:14:** Jesus's audience wasn't "expecting" this! The Pharisees were the spiritual superstars back in Jesus's day while the tax collectors were traitors! Yet, it was the one who grasped \* the goodness and kindness of God who was saved.

**Key Point:** At the beginning of our lesson we talked about "expectations". This lesson took an "unexpected" turn and I hope it has you thinking about what you are trusting in.

Q: Where do you "expect" to go after you die, heaven or hell? Most people "expect" to go to heaven. \* But then the question is WHY? Because you go to church? Because you are basically good? Because you said a prayer? If you answered this way, you are in trouble! Your trust isn't in the kindness and grace of God, but in yourself!

**Boys and girls:** Jesus loves you! You need Him! \* Believe and trust in Him every day! Don't fall into the trap of "churchy" self-righteousness and "snub" the grace of God! Suppress the truth about God and His GOSPEL POWER no more!

# BRING IT HOME

What is a hypocrite?  
Read Romans 2:1

*Parent Signature:*  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Parent Challenge:*  
When the first word you read in  
your Bible is "Therefore", what  
question should you ask? Why?

Read Romans 2:4.  
What are some ways  
we might despise or  
"snub" the truth?

