

Paul begins Romans by showing that the whole world is guilty before God and stands in need of the righteousness of Christ. Without which the whole wide world is lost. He first condemns the Gentile, or pagan, world in Chapter 1. But then when he comes to

Chapter 2: he moves to the religious world, to the highest expression of religion in all the world. The Jewish world. And he shows them that they need the righteousness of Christ. That they have a form of Godliness, but they don't have true righteousness. Therefore, they are just as lost as the pagan. Or the Gentile, but they're far more responsible because of the Light which has been given to them through the law. And they have an outward pretense. I would describe this section 'religious braggarts'. You know the worst thing in this world is to be blind and to be proud of it. To be a braggart. And that's what we have in this section that is before us.

I want us to apply to modern man. Because it's very, very relevant. Very, very relevant to many church members. Very, very relevant to people who have a form of religion but don't have the true righteousness of Jes. And who do not have the life of Jes. So we're gonna look at it in this light. Beginning in V. 17, Paul lists six advantages of the ~~K&S~~ Jews and then he goes on to list four great privileges which they assume because of these advantages. All right, let's look at

V. 17(read) 'behold' that's really not in the Greek tongue. I would translate it 'assuming that you are called a Jew' now that's the FIRST advantage. They bore the honorable title of Jews, which was the most wonderful title in all the world. Jews! Means the praise of God. Comes from Judah. Judah! He says 'you have the most beautiful name in all the world'. We have that name today, if we're Xtns. That's the most beautiful name in all the world, is Xtn. But you see, it takes more than a name.

2 In the SECOND place, he says 'and you rest in the law' - this verb 'rest' means 'a blind and a mechanical reliance'. So easy for us today to say 'oh, I have a Bible. I'm a traditionalist,

I'm a KJV Bible Xtn'. It was good enough for Paul, ^{it's} ~~xxxx~~ good enough for me. ² Or 'I'm a liberated Xtn. I study the New Am. Standard Version of the Living Bible. I have the Bible in 26 translations!' Bibles everywhere. More Bibles than there's ever been but it takes more than a Bible and it takes more than having the name of Xtn. ³ Then Paul says 'and makest thy boast of God' and that was the THIRD advantage.

They claimed they knew God. Oh, there's so much talk in the world about God. 'God, Billy Graham and I were talking this morning'. Language like this of talking to God; of knowing God; of having an inside track to God! You ever meet any people like this? He's really taking these religious people to task. In the next place, he says in

V. 18 (read) 'knowing His will' - they claimed to know the will of God. They really believed that they knew the will of God. ⁵ 'And approvest the things that are more excellent' and he said 'you claim to have a real understanding of that which is the highest and the noblest in the moral and Spiritual life and indeed they DID have the greatest ethics in the world; they DID have the Ten Commandments; they had a standard of morality that the world has never known. You know, we Xtns have this. It amazes me, though, that often Xtns are superior minded but they dwell on the things they DON'T do, so often.

I don't smoke; I don't go to movies; I don't drink - that's never the question. But what are we DOING? What are we for JC? A man is neither saved nor sanctified by what he gives up. But by what he receives. The Xtn life is a positive force; it's not a negative ethics at all! And that's basically what these Jews were. They ~~were~~ were basically negative. They really didn't have the power or the love of Jes. in their lives at all. Now because of all this, well, he goes on to say: 'being instructed (or catechize) that's the word 'catechize' out of the law!'

Now because of all these things, they claimed four great privileges. Beginning in V. 18, they claim to be a guide; a light; in V. 21; an instructor, a teacher and actually what they said

were: that we're up here on a pedestal; we're the guides, we're the light; we're the teachers and the other people of the world, they're just in ignorance and they're in darkness. Yet, Paul is going to show that those that they thought they could teach, were better off than they were. Is it possible to be in the church and to be worse off than people who don't know the Bible and people who've not had the background we've had in the church? My friends, it is.

Self-righteousness and forms of Godliness without JC - that's the most serious thing in the religious world today. That's what Paul is dealing with here. He says

V. 19 (read) that word 'confident' is 'persuaded' that thou thyself and no other is what it teaches in the Greek. You are persuaded that you ^{JEWS} ~~are~~ - and no one else - art #1. A Guide To the Blind'. The poor Gentiles are Blind. We have the light so we've got to guide them. "A light of them which are in darkness". You are in darkness, the whole world is in darkness, we're a great shining light and you are supposed to follow us.

V. 20 (read) 'an instructor of the foolish'. The rest of the world is stupid. You don't know anything. We've got the law; we've had it and we are your instructor. Then he says 'a teacher of babes' and the word 'babies' is 'nipeon' which means 'infant'. Those who don't know anything. A teacher of the babies. It's a wonderful to teach babies in our churches; wonderful thing to work in preschool; to work in the nursery, but you know we need to know something if we're gonna teach Babies. I've heard people say 'well, anybody can teach a baby; anybody can work in preschool!'. That's one of our problems today.

Sometimes we have lost people trying to teach babies. NO one should be in preschool who doesn't know Jes. and doesn't have a testimony of Jes. because the first impression of a child is in the preschool or what we call the nursery. and if you get a lost church member teaching children they will probably grow up to be a lost church member. I believe that's happened many times. But you get someone instructing who has the love of Jes., and it'll come out. The love of Jes. and the experience of Jes. will always come out in a persons face; in what they talk about.

They will talk about Jes. It's important what we're saying and this is not just a lesson in history; this is a lesson in Twentieth Century Churchmanship: that we need to look at. We have clinicians here. I remember when I went down to Florida, Bro. Stevens, and heard James Kennedy and he made the amazing statement that 80% of all Presbyterians were lost. And that 80% of the people in that church were people that had been professing Xtns, mostly Presbyterian and says 'they're lost'. I think one of the saddest things on the religious scene in America today is that we do have so many religious people.

They have a Bible, they have a moral standard; they say 'we have the Light' but they don't have Jes. and that's sad and that's really what he's coming to. He goes on to say 'which has the form or embodiment or essence of knowledge and of the Truth in the law' and they had that. They certainly did.

V. 21 (read) and V. 22(read) he asks them some questions. And in these three questions, which he asks, he charges them with the most serious moral violations in sin. He charges them with being a thief, with being adulterers and of being idolators. You say 'you mean to tell me that a Jew, having the moral of Moses, could be a thief? You mean to tell me that a Jew could be an adulterer? And above all things, could be an idolator?' which they hated above everything? Idolatry? Their Synagogues were utterly simple! They had no use for any images of any kind! The simplest place of worship upon earth is a Synagogue.

Yes, indeed. Can a religious person be guilty of these most terrible sins? They can and they ARE, my friends. That's the thing for us to search our hearts about today. He says in V. 21: 'thou, therefore, which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself?' He says 'now you have set yourself up as being the teacher, do you practice what you preach?' Every time I speak to preachers, and I do pretty often, I say 'brothers, the Gospel we preach is no more believable that what we live'. If we don't practice what we preach, it does far more damage that if we didn't ~~XXXXX~~ preach!

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Now you can take a medical doctor and a medical doctor doesn't have to be a Xtn to practice

good medicine. Some of us would go to a lost medical doctor, but it's not that way in the realm of the Spiritual. If a person doesn't practice what he preaches, if he doesn't practice what he teaches; he has no witness whatsoever. And he becomes a religious joke before the world. That's what they were guilty of. They were teaching all kinds of things but they were not practicing what they were preaching. He really zeroes in on them, in the next question.

V. 21b: 'thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?' They taught the 8th commandment 'Thou Shalt Not Steal'. Did they steal? Do you realize that the Jews, in the Roman Empire, had the notorious reputation of being the most treacherous traders in the world. Rome abolished them from the city at times. Because of their awful business practices! So easy to hold up a standard and to say 'oh, yes,' and go out in business and steal. They indeed were thieves of the first order! Jes. condemns a practice that was so common; the practice of corbin(?). A man have a lot of money, he's supposed to take care of his aging parents, but he didn't intend to do it and he'd go over to the priest and he'd say 'you know I've got a thousand dollars; I want to dedicate this to the Lord and after I die, it belongs to Him'.

Corbin

The next week, his dad comes to him and says 'son, you know I can't pay my rent; could you help me?' He says 'Dad, I'd love to, but I dedicated all my money to the Lord'. ~~XNS~~ Do Xtns do things like that? Church members do all the time! All sort of rationalization to keep giving/their money to the Lord. 'We invest in our business' or 'we've got to have it over here'. My friends, we need to read the Bible, what it says to us and if we will listen to it, it will correct us in our modern life. The reason this society is so corrupt, not altogether because of humanism; it's because so often the people who say they are Xtns, have not really lived by the Word of God but have rationalized things in their lives and it's sad beyond words, when this kind of thing obtains, and it certainly is true in our religious world!

Dr. Gallop recently in Little Rock and at Ouachita Baptist University, pointed out that while interest in religion continues to grow in this country, the moral climate of this nation continues to slide. What's wrong? Paul is giving us an insight into it here today. To claim

everything but to get around the Word of God, often with subtleties in our lives. And pretend what we ought to be when we're not, at all. Then in

V. 22(read) do the Jews commit adultery? Do you realize that they broke the Mosaic law on marriage? That they liberalized marriage in the days of Jes., until marriage didn't mean much. And there's record after record of immorality among the religious groups. Remember the 8th chapter of John? The Pharisees dragged this woman to the presence of Jes. Accused of adultery, caught in the act? He says 'he that is without sin, let him cast the first stone'. You know He wrote on the sand and when he stood up, every one of those rascals had gone. You know what those fellows were guilty of? They were guilty of adultery-

John 8-

That's what they were guilty of and Jes. had shown the Light into their souls and they just ran, from His presence. He goes on to say and this is the ultimate of their sins. 'Thou that abhorrest idols, ~~idols~~ (the Greek verb abhorrest means 'thinks that idols stinks'). The Jews hated idolatry more than anything in the world. He says 'thou that abhorrest (or hates) idols as if they stunk, dost thou commit sacrilege?' Or dost thou rob Temples is what the Greek says. Do you rob Temples? You say the worst sin in the world is to have another god in your life? Do you rob Temples? Do you realize that the Jews took the gods that were robbed out of the pagan Temple and sold them and made a tremendous profit?

A TREMENDOUS profit! Oh, we say that we believe in one God!! Well, I hope we do and I hope we worship Him but it's the easiest thing in the world to have an idol in our lives. They actually were guilty of the worst form of idolatry as we're gonna see in V. 24, they were guilty of the worst form of idolatry until they turned the unbelieving Gentile world against God. Nothing turns people against God like people who claim to know Him, but who don't have Him in their hearts, and in their lives. Nothing does damage to the work of God; nothing does damage to the world Evangelization as much as religious people who claim everything on Sunday but who go out during the week and live lives just like the world!

We could win this city which is basically lost, if we had a consistent witness in the church of

JC. There are some people here this morning who have such a powerful witness of Godliness in your life. If the total membership of our church was like some that's here this morning, we could win the whole city, but it isn't. It isn't! People see this and our God becomes a joke. We claim such high standards but it doesn't mean anything in our lives and it's at the point of the most subtle way that satan will attack us. In our day, especially in the area of material things.

If we don't have the right attitude in this area, the ~~wax~~ world will lose all of its faith in us. Because the world is a materialistic world and if we are trying to get everything we can and we're not giving to God like we ought to, we absolutely convince a world that we're after the dollar just like they are and we don't believe in giving it any more than they give and this does tremendous damage to the cause of God. All right. He says in

V. 23(read) 'thy boast of the law (and they did) through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?' It's questioned and yet, it's accusation. Then, in

V. 24(read) 'the name of God' and that was the most sacred thing in the world to a Jew was the Name of God. So sacred that he would not even pronounce it. The sacred name of Yahway - no Jew would ever say Jehovah or Yahway. It was too sacred. They would say 'Audania' (Lord) but not Yahway. It was too sacred even for them to pronounce. Well, look what Paul says: 'the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles (or the nations or the pagansworld) through you (because of you is what the Greek says) as it is written'. That's one of the most serious statements I've ever read in the Word of God.

2 Sam 12:14
He says 'the name of your God, which is so Holy to you that you won't even pronounce it, is blasphemed among an unbelieving world because of you'. Because of you. Now blasphemy was the ultimate in a sin for a Jew. Because you know what blasphemy is? It comes from the Greek word which means 'to speak the strongest language against God and His character'. It's a tongue sin, like the sin - the unpardonable sin - the sin against the H. S. - that's the blasphemy

and to a Jew, to speak out against God, in derogatory language was the worst thing in the world. But Paul says 'YOU caused the unbelieving world to speak out, to blaspheme the name of God'. Why? Because of your life! You claim everything but you don't possess it in your living. It's just not in your hearts; it's just not in you. It's a form of righteousness, but it's not on the inside of you. It's not a thing in the world but an outward form of religion'.

gm A leading Rabbi in this country said some time ago 'we Jews have denied Jes., with our lips, but you Xtns have done far worse. You have denied Him and disgraced Him with your lives'. Which is the worst: to deny Christ with our lips or with our lives'? Well, you decide but that's exactly what they were doing. You see, the Gentiles, they said 'our gods are immoral. Adultery is all right with our gods. Theft is all right with our gods. Our gods, they permit these things; they do things like this themselves. They get involved in immoral relationships'. Remember Greek mythology?

But you came along and told us your god was Holy. That He didn't even sin. And yet, you come along and you commit adultery and you come along and you commit theft, you come along and do all these things contrary to your God and you say 'listen, don't you talk to us about your God; He ain't nothing but a joke!' And that's exactly the way it is. If we, who profess Jes., do not show to the world that He's changed our lives and that we have a righteousness; we actually, rather than promoting God, we turn the world against Him and I'm telling you today, friends, that that's the greatest problem in the religious world today. Are the people and sometimes they can be preachers - I'm not going to eliminate anybody - or a deacon, or a S.S. teacher or a member of a church - can turn people against God and they're doing it all the time! ALL the time!

Sometimes we hear this section taught on Romans and the teacher makes no application to it's audience whatsoever and has every Xtn or professed Xtn leaving the congregation saying 'well, those Jews, weren't they terrible?' You talk about that which is not preaching, that ain't preaching and that ain't teaching! There are three questions we always ask if we're gonna teach

the Bible:

1. What did it mean then?
2. What does it mean now?
3. What does it say to us personally?

And the man who doesn't teach and preach that way - he hasn't preached and he hasn't taught. Here is a bold charge and it is so relevant, it is so real. A lady joined this church last Sunday because of this very thing that I'm talking about and I can't say more. But she revealed it very clear to me that she was turned against a certain movement because of the morals or the immorality- All right, let's move on. Now he moves on in V. 25 and 26 and 27, into circumcision. Paul has dealt with the law and showed them that they are hypocrites. Well, the Jew, he comes back and says 'wait a moment ~~XXXXXX~~ we're the circumcised'. Now look, in

V. 25 (read) 'verily' (truly) 'profiteth (or valuable) if you keep the law'. Well, what was circumcision? It was an outward symbol of being in ~~XXXXXX~~ Covenant relationship with the Lord. And of looking for the promise of the Messiah, through Abraham. It was an outward symbol. The reality was in the heart - the faith that was in the heart. The O.T. speaks of the inward circumcision. And Paul says 'that it's valuable, if the person keeps the law'. 'But if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision'. You absolutely deny your circumcision if you do not keep the law.

You just deny it. It's just worthless. It's just outward, there's nothing to it! Not at all.

V. 26 (read) 'the uncircumcision (that would be the Gentiles and no Gentile was EVER circumcised) and man, did this make the Jews mad! The very idea that he would even imitate that a Gentile could be circumcised! SM The Rabbis had a teaching that it would be impossible for any man to go to Gehenna (or hell) with a sign of circumcision on his body. Then it would have to be burned off if he entered hell. And that NO Gentile - this was only for the Jews. But look what Paul said in V. 26.

'Therefore, if the uncircumcision (the uncircumcised-the Gentile) keep the righteousness of

(righteousness is the word 'ordinances' or moral requirements of the law and most Bible students believe that these Gentiles had actually received Jes. These uncircumcised Gentiles; the best Greek Scholars that I've read after believed that these keeping of the moral requirements of the law, based on Rom. 8: 2, 3 & 4 where it says 'what the law could not do, in that it was weak, God sent in His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh in order that the 'deācoma' which means 'the moral, righteousness requirements of the law' might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit'.

It appears that he's talking about converted Gentiles here who have received Christ, who have the H. S. in them and are actually keeping the moral requirements of the law. And he says in V. 26: 'therefore if the uncircumcised KEEP the moral requirements of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted (or be regarded) for circumcision?' Man, what a statement that is and how it made every Jew in the world mad and would call that blasphemy. But what he's saying is: the outward circumcision is not what the important thing is. It's that inward relationship to God through Christ and the Bible speaks of the Spiritual circumcision.

You read Deut. 30: 6. 'The Lord will circumcise our heart' and that's the circumcision we need. The Lord will circumcise our heart that we may love Him with all of our hearts and all of our souls that we might live. Jer. 4: 4; Gal. 6: 15 (read) . We'll show you in a few moments, if you want to apply this to baptism; baptism doesn't mean a thing. Church membership doesn't mean a thing. Our outward profession doesn't mean a thing unless it is in the heart and unless our lives have been changed! And we have God's kind of righteousness which comes through faith and through the entrance of the H. S. who gives us a new life and a new way and a new ethic and without which the N. T. gives no hope of Eternal Life.

The old Calvinist theology is true: that when we receive it, it is an Eternal gift, but the old Calvinist theology teaches clearly that it perseveres. This idea of once saved, always saved, you live like you want to and you're always saved - that's not Calvinist doctrine; that's not Baptist doctrine; that's not Presbyterian doctrine; that's not N. T. doctrine at all!

that's a devilish doctrine that has trapped many people and sending thousands of people to hell, in my judgment. He goes on in

V. 27(read) my, he's getting rough. He says 'actually the uncircumcised is gonna judge the circumcised! If the uncircumcised live up to a higher standard than those who are circumcised. That's hard for us to believe this. But this is what Paul says, very, very clear. They didn't fail to understand it. Now, let's say 'well, you've done away with the law - you showed us that's nothing for us to rest on'. 'You've done away with circumcision but there's one thing you can't do away with!! We're Jews. We have a relationship with Bro. Abraham and that's gonna take care of us'. Oh, my goodness; oh, my goodness; how foolish!

We're Presbyterians; we're Pentecostal; we're charismatic; I'm a Nazarene; I'm this and I'm that. That's not worth a thing. I've been baptized. I've been a member of our church for many, many years. That's not worth one thing. Unless it's inward and unless ~~xxx~~ the reality is in our lives, through JC. Who is the real Jew? This is the most hotly debated question in Israel today. Who is a real Jew? We have many Jews in this country who deny the O. T. Can you be a Jew and deny the O. T.? Well, you could trace your blood back to Abraham. There are many atheists who could trace their blood back to Abraham. Does that make them a Jew?

How about a black man? Can he be a Jew? Can a Gentile be a Jew? Can a protestant be a Jew? Can a catholic be a Jew? My, the Jews say 'listen, you've got to trace that ancestry back to Abraham. Does that make one a Jew in a Biblical sense? Who is a Jew? Any Jews here this morning? You know our - Zola Levitt says 'every church should have its Jew' and by that he means really a one who can trace his genealogy back to Abraham, should be won to Christ and that's true. You know, we won our Jew. Matter of fact, we won him through this class. He came and he heard us teaching Hebrews, we got to Heb. 10, on the great atonement of Jes. and he saw it. PTL!

I went over here in So. Ft. Smith and all I had to do was just to show him how to pray. Went

over there with Evangelism Explosion, Bro. Stevens and won this son, this blood son of Abraham, to Jes. But listen, Zola was talking about that but listen, there are Jews here this morning who are Gentiles. Oh yes. I'm a Jew, according to Paul. Every born again person here this morning is a true Jew. This is the honorable name of Gods people. Listen, Paul says in

V. 28(read) here's who is not a Jew. 'Which is one outwardly (you know, who just has circumcision, claims he's got the law. Claims all these things outwardly) neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh'. See, that's not circumcision. So you see he removes all externals.

V. 29(read) who is the real Jew? That's the question raised in the ad. Who is a real Jew? Is a real Jew one who traces his ancestry back to Abraham? Or maintains the Kosher kitchen? Is that a real Jew? What does Paul say? 'But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly' - what is he talking about? He's ~~XXXXX~~ talking about a personal relationship to God, through JC. He's talking about having the faith-kind of righteousness. What we share, brother, so clearly and so beautifully in Evangelism Explosion every week and around the world.

The basic reforms doctrine of the church's great teaching of the Evangelical church, my friends, that outward form NEVER does it. The world was lost in it for a thousand years and God delivered us from an outward form of religion and yet, we're never delivered from it. We have to fight it all the time in every generation, which is faced with the question 'will we worship forms and symbols or will we know the reality of a living Christ in our lives that changes us? And makes us real!

Now, look back at V. 28 and wherever you find the word 'Jew', let's put the word 'Xtn' and wherever you find the word 'circumcision' let's put the word 'baptism'. You say 'oh, you're a Presbyterian. I see that right now. You are a reformed theologian.' No, I'm not. I do not believe that circumcision corresponds to baptism. I think I can explain that to anybody. Circumcision applied only to males, in the O. T. Baptism is for ALL believers. But I think for

the sake of showing the application of this to modern man, that we can just put Xtn where Jew appears in the text and baptism, which is the outward, visible confession of our inward acceptance of Christ and I think you will get the thrust of what Paul is saying. And, man, it's devastating. It's so terrific! Look at it that way in V. 28

'for he is not a Xtn, which is one outwardly, neither is that baptism, which is outward in the flesh'. You see? Say 'oh, the ordinance is not important'. I'm not saying they're not important. They're tremendously important. It's tremendously important that you be baptized, but not until you've received Christ. Not until it's on the inside. Tremendously important that the assembled church celebrate communion, the Eucharist, the Holy right of Gods church. But never to celebrate it until the blood has been applied to our hearts and we've been washed in the blood of the Lamb and then made alive by the H. Ghost. Otherwise, it doesn't mean a thing!

So you can put those words in there. But look at

V. 29: 'but he is a Xtn, which is one inwardly and circumcision is that of the heart in the Spirit and not in the letter whose praise is not of men, but of God'. Let's turn back to Deut. 30: 6 which is so very, very important in understanding what the apostle is saying. Deut. 30: 6(read) what a statement! You know what that is? That's the New Birth. That's EXACTLY what the New Birth is. Spiritual surgery on the inside of us that takes away sin and puts in the righteousness of Jes. and establishes a relationship based upon Faith with Jes. in the heart and that will show in a life.

A man who tells me he's been Born Again and circumcised in the heart and lives like he's always lived and lives like the lost Gentile world, he's denying the Bible. I do not believe a word of it. You can be a church member; you can be baptized; you can have a certificate for teaching S. S.; you can tithe; you can be a deacon; you can be a pastor; you can hold every name and every honor in the religious world, but unless a person has been circumcised in the heart,

and loves God, loves Jes. with all of his heart and with all of his soul; all of that outward is nothing. If you have the inward and then you've been baptized and then you're a member of a church and then you're ~~xxx~~ teaching and then you're a deacon, an elder, a steward or whatever you are - WONDERFUL, Wonderful! But if you turn it around, it's an abomination.

sm Some time ago, I preached on the subject 'The Abomination of High Doctrine and Low Conduct'. And there is no greater abomination in the world today. Some people who have the highest doctrine - oh, they can tell you everything. They can tell you all about the antichrist. They can tell you all about when Christ is going to come. They can tell about the decrees of God, all about the dispensation - man, they know it. They know the difference in Calvinism and Armeniaism(?) and boy, they've heard all the tapes and they go all to the conferences. But sometimes those people are some of the most wicked, unloving I've ever known in my life!

They'll pull a business deal that - my goodness - would make the devil blush. Sometimes they teach S. S. Sometimes they're deacons. And that's exactly what Paul was dealing with here this morning. He's dealing with an outward form of godliness that claims everything but who doesn't have it on the inside.

~~xxx~~ May God help us to. May God help us to get the lesson. The lesson is very clear. Do we profess or are we possessed that which we profess? Not are we baptized but have we died to sin and been raised to walk in newness of life with Jes.? Not are we a church member and respectable, but are we a Godly child of God, that the world knows God lives, because He lives in us? Remember the greatest witness in this world is the witness of a redeemed life; of a redeemed live!

sm - Gandhi + Russell

Mahatma Ghonda said 'I would have become a Xtn, but I met too many Xtns'. Isn't that sad? Bertrum Russell, the great atheist if England said 'I really considered Xtnity, until I saw the ethics of some Xtns'. We're ~~either~~ turning people TO the True and Living God or we are turning them away. We're turning them away. The Jews said 'we are IT, religiously'. But Paul says 'you're causing an unbelieving, lost world to blaspheme the Name of your God'.

It's a serious word to us, here today, who are as sincere as we can be and who've really been saved. It's a serious word for us, to again realize how important it is that we show that we are the children of God, where it costs us. I mean areas where it will actually cost us and if we're here today and there's not been a time in our lives when we saw we were sinners and we truly repented and turned our lives over to Jes., and were Born Again and changed, we better hear the message today because we're just as lost and far more responsible than the man out here who doesn't claim a thing in this world.

PTL that we can be

End of Tape