

Maranatha Men's Training Camp

Abounding Grace

Romans: Becoming a Man of God

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Romans 2:12-29 – Religion or Relationship?

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

...James 1:22

MAIN POINT

“You will never find fulfillment in religion. You may find momentary satisfaction that will need to be repeated over and over, ...but all your efforts will still lead to disappointment and a hope that you will struggle being at peace with.”

“Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world. ...James 1:27 (NASB)

Religion vs. Relationship

Scripture: Romans 2:12-29

1. God looks at our Hearts, not our “Performance” ...Romans 2:12-16

Scripture: 1Samuel 16:7, Galatians 6:7-10, Romans 6:1-2, James 1:22-25, Psalm 8, Ecclesiastes 3:11

2. Hypocrisy...a look at ourselves, rather than at others! ...Romans 2:17-24

Scripture: James 4:4

3. Being Religious...what really matters? ...Romans 2:25-29

Scripture: James 1:26-27, Romans 12:9-18, Philippians 2:3-5, 1Corinthians 10:24, Matthew 22:37-40

So what should we do?

1. Take regular inventory of your heart, and know what motivates and steers your thinking, life-choices, behaviors, actions...

Scripture: Psalm 139:23-24

2. Look at people and life through Jesus' eyes...

Scripture: 1John 4:7-8, 1Corinthians 13:4-8a and 13, 1John 4:10-11

FROM THE WORD

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What stood out or spoke to you from tonight's study?
2. What are some common behaviors and/or actions that people strive to do for the sake of *Religion*?

Describe some of the reasons or motivation behind these behaviors and/or actions...

3. What are some life-choices, behaviors, or actions that are commonly inspired by having a personal *Relationship* with Jesus? ...Share it with your Group

4. How would you describe the difference between life-choices, behaviors, or actions that are motivated by "Religious" beliefs, as opposed to a "Relationship" with Jesus ...Share it with your Group

PLAN OF ACTION

5. Is there anything that you would say the Lord has possibly placed on your heart in regards to reaching out to someone He has placed in your life?

What did you learn from this study and tonight's discussion that you can apply to your life this week?

Discuss your answer with your group...

1. What was most useful for you about this study?
2. What personal application or idea has God given you from this study? ...Share it with your Group

READING PLAN

Wednesday: 1Peter 1:1-25
Thursday: 1Peter 2:1-25
Friday: 1Peter 3:1-22

Saturday: 1Peter 4:1-19
Sunday: 1Peter 5:1-11
Monday: 1John 4:7-21

MEMORY VERSE

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." ...John 3:16-17

How do the **5 Principles for the Christian Man**, help equip you to apply this to your life?

Discuss your answer with your group...

- Prayer (*Relationship*)
- God's Word (*Knowledge and Understanding*)
- Worship (*Adoration*)
- Fellowship (*Encouragement and Accountability*)
- Service (*Caring for Others, Action to your Belief*)