



## Set Free from Excuses Romans 2:1 – 3:20

### Excuse #1 – “Other People Sin Way Worse Than I Do” Romans 2:1-16

*“God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.” 2:16*

- **Why this excuse doesn't work: The hypocrisy of our judgment of others**
  - The Jews judged in others the very things they practiced (v. 2:1-3)
  - The Jews judgment flowed from their stubborn and unrepentant hearts (pride) (v. 2:4-11)
  - God saw the private lives of the people (v. 2:12-16)

### Excuse #2 – “I Am Devoted to Religious Rituals” Romans 2:17-3:8

*“...But if you are a transgressor of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.” (Romans 2:25)*

- **Why this excuse doesn't work: We can't keep any religious law perfectly**
  - The failure of the Jews to follow the law perfectly (v. 2:17-23)
  - Failure to keep the law perfectly nullified the whole system (v. 2:24-3:8)

### Excuse #3 – “I Am a Good Person” Romans 3:9-3:20

*“There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God.” (Romans 3:11)*

- **Why this excuse doesn't work: No one is good enough**
  - There is no person who can meet God's perfect and holy standards (v. 3:10-18)
  - Therefore, no one has an acceptable excuse for their sin (v. 3:19-20)

**The Ultimate Question: “Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?” (Romans 7:24)**

## Jesus Offers Us an Exchange, Not an Excuse Romans 8:1-3

*“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did; sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh.” (Romans 8:1-3)*

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### “Jesus Paid It All” (This is a great hymn to dwell on or sing)

#### Verse 1

I hear the Savior say, "Thy strength indeed is small  
Child of weakness, watch and pray  
Find in Me thine all in all"

#### Chorus

'Cause Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain He washed it white as snow

#### Verse 2

Lord, now indeed I find Thy pow'r and Thine alone  
Can change the leper's spots And melt the heart of stone

#### Verse 3

And when before the throne I stand in Him complete  
Jesus died my soul to save my lips shall still repeat

#### Bridge

Oh, praise the One who paid my debt And raised this life  
up from the dead

# Digging Deeper

## ROMANS OVERVIEW:

**SIN**  
Romans 1 - 3

**SALVATION**  
Romans 4 - 6

**SANCTIFICATION**  
Romans 7 - 8

**SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**  
Romans 9 - 11

**SERVICE**  
Romans 12 - 16

"We must remember that the book of Romans was a letter written by Paul to the church in Rome. Because it was a letter, it was to be read in full, and not meant to take just one part and build your values around that part alone. This is important to remember each Sunday because as we examine only certain passages alone, one may develop a distorted or inadequate view of God and His plans." – David J. Mitchell

## Three great passages to read, reflect upon and respond to as we study the book of Romans and understand the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ.

### Passage #1 – Romans 3:10-18

This paragraph in Romans 3 is referred to as a "charaz" in Hebrew which literally means, "a string of pearls." Paul puts together six Old Testament passages to make a string of pearls, communicating mankind's character, conduct and cause.

- Romans 3:10-12 - The Universal Character of Humankind
- Romans 3:13-17 - The Universal Conduct of Humankind
- Romans 3:18 - The Universal Cause of Humankind's Sin

The Old Testament Passages Paul refers to in Romans 3:10-18 include:

Psalm 14:1-8, Psalm 5:5-10, Psalm 140:1-4, Psalm 104:4-7, Isaiah 59:4-10, Psalm 36:1-4  
(adapted from R. Kent Hughes, Romans Commentary, Crossway, 1991).

### Passage #2 – Romans 7:24

Romans 7:24 asks the question that comes to all of our minds when we understand the depth and seriousness of our sin against a Holy God. *"Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?"*

### Passage #3 – Romans 8:1-3

This passage gives us the answer to the truth of Romans 3:10-18 and the corresponding question asked in Romans 7:24. Jesus exchanges his righteousness (perfect standing before God) and holiness (perfection) for our sin in His sacrifice of coming into our world, living a sinless life and going to the cross to die for our sin. What a glorious Savior!

## LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Look over the 3 most common excuses listed in the sermon outline. Before placing your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, what excuse did you often give to justify your sin?
2. What was the catalyst for you to let go of this excuse and surrender your life to Jesus Christ? Take some time to share your testimony and celebrate who God's kindness led you to repentance (Romans 2:4).
3. The Gospel can be summed up by reading Romans 3:10-18, Romans 7:24, and Romans 8:1-3. Take some time to read these 3 passages from Romans and then talk about the joy, hope, peace and wonder of what Jesus has done for you! End your discussion with worship, prayer or perhaps communion to celebrate God's mighty work.

## Next Steps:

1. **Place your faith in Jesus Christ today as your Savior and Lord!** Use the booklet in the seat rack called, "The Way to Connect with God" to help you understand who Jesus is and to help guide you through a prayer placing your faith in Him as Savior and Lord.
2. **Have more questions about God and who Jesus is?** Attend the **Alpha Course** beginning, February 5th at 6:00 pm in the Worship Center Lobby. This will help you understand the basics of the Christian faith and explore your questions, doubts or thoughts you have about the Gospel of Jesus. Learn more about the Alpha Course at [calvarylife.org/alpha](http://calvarylife.org/alpha)
3. **Sign-up to Volunteer with Birth Choice Health Clinics in the Worship Center Lobby today.** Today on Sanctity of Life Sunday, we remember the biblical truth that all life is valuable to God and made in His image (Genesis 1:26) including the innocent unborn. Birth Choice Health Clinics operates a pro-life medical clinic in the Calvary owned Heritage Medical building and is looking for additional volunteers to serve at the clinic. Go to the table in the lobby or contact Keith at [santaana@birthchoiceclinic.org](mailto:santaana@birthchoiceclinic.org)



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